

D-2.38.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

Monsieur de Sorbier's

V O Y A G E *Anne*

INTO

ENGLAND. *Pole*

Written to Dr. WREN,
Professor of Astronomy
in Oxford.

BY

THOMAS SPRAT,

Fellow of the Royal Society.

LONDON,

Printed for John Martyn, and James
Allestry, Printers to the Royal
Society. 1669.

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LONDON,

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Inne Pole

LETTER

Containing some Observations

On


MONSIEUR de SORBIERE'S
Voyage into ENGLAND.

Written to Doctor WREN,
Professor of ASTRONOMY
in OXFORD.

By Tho. SPRAAT.

Sed poterat tutior esse Domini.

SIR,

 Here send You
the Account,
which Monsieur
de Sorbiere has gi-
ven of his Voyage into Eng-
land.

116873

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
gland.* And though it be
an insolent Libel on our Na-
tion, yet I doubt not, but
you will peruse it with de-
light. For when you have
beheld how many errors,
and falshoods, he has com-
mitted in this small Relati-
on; you cannot but be well
pleas'd to find, that who-
ever undertakes to defame
your Country, he must at
the same time, forfeit his Wit
and his Understanding, as
well as his good Manners.

The King of France hath
already given him an effect

Qua

etual Answer. And it became the justice of so great a Monarch, while he was defending the Interest of the Christian Faith with his arms, to punish a pragmatical Reviler of one of the most powerful Kingdoms in Christendome: and while he was exacting satisfaction from the Pope himself, for an affront offer'd to his Embassador, to take care that none of his own Subjects should presume to injure the reputation of his neighbors, and neereſt Allies.

This just Reply which has been publicquely made to this rude Satyr, was the cause that it has not bin hitherto confuted by an *English Gentleman* of your acquaintance, who had undertaken it, whose Wit wee might have oppos'd against him, if he had still flourish't at *Paris*, with the Title of *Historiographer Royal*, though all his mighty boasts of his own abilities had been true. But however, though he is now below our excellent Friends consideration; yet
I

I think my self ingag'd to see him corrected. For having now under my hands the *History* of the *Royal Society*, it will be in vain for mee to try to represent its design to be advantageous to the glory of *England*, if my Countrymen shall know that one who calls himself a member of that *Assembly*, has escap'd unanswer'd in the publique disgraces, which he has cast on our whole *Nation*.

I will therefore Sir, briefly take him into a calm examination.

amination. And that you
 may understand how I in-
 tend to proceed with him,
 I do here in the beginning
 profess, that I will not vin-
 dicate the honor of the *En-
 glish*, by making reflections
 on the *French*. I will not in-
 deavour to repair our own
 fame on the ruins of others.
 I will have no contention
 but with himself. I will only
 put together, and compare,
 the mistakes, the incoheren-
 ces, the vanities of his *Book*.
 And (to confess a secret to
 you, Sir,) I am resolv'd to
 take

take this course in answer-
ing him; not only because
I abhor the sordid way of
Wit, of abusing whole Na-
tions: but also because I
am not much inamor'd of
the glory of his punishment.
For I cannot think that it
is worth a mans while, that
can live quietly here at Lon-
don, to have the honour of
making three or four ill-na-
tur'd jests, on a whole King-
dom, with the hazard of
being justly banisht into
Flin or *Denbigh* for ones la-
bour.

I must confess Sir, I came at first to read him with some expectations. I had before seen what he had written in praise of those two great Men, the Ornaments of France, Gassendus, and De Marcu the Arch-Bishop of Paris. And I had some good hope, that the familiarity, which he pretended to have had with them, had taught him some of their good Qualities: that from the first he had taken that candour, and modesty, which the world admires in his writings;

writings : and from the other he had learn'd with what respect he ought to treat the fame of whole *Nations, Churches, and Sovereign Princes*, by that admirable defence, which he has made of the *Gallican* priviledges. Besides this, Sir, I took his Book into my hands with the greater good-will, because I had some knowledg of his person : I had seen him at the *Royal Society* : I had been a witness with what civility he had been there entertain'd : I had been in-

bravo

form'd

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
form'd what kindness he had
receiv'd at *Oxford*: I had
heard what favour the *King*
had shewn him, by admit-
ting him to private discour-
ses with him in his Cabinet.
And from all this I was in-
couraged to beleive, that he
had given an honourable, or
at least a just description of
England. But I quickly per-
ceiv'd how much I was dis-
appointed: I presently saw
what difference there is be-
tween scribbling fine Haran-
gues on vertuous Men, and
real vertue it self. I strait
did not found

found that instead of the good intentions, which he says, *Pref.* he never wants, the greatest part of his Treatise consists of ill-grounded reproches: that he has ventur'd on many things, whereof it was impossible he should receive an account: that where he might be suppos'd to have some tolerable knowledge, his malice has perverted his understanding: and that through the whole course of his Observations, he has by his own example made good that character, which he often

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 ten in this Book bestows on
 humane Nature in general,
 P. 188. *that mankind is most pleas'd*
with trifles, and that we are all
credulous and Lyars.

In his *Epistle Dedicatory*,
 he assures the most *Christian*
King, that the principal motive
 of his journey, was a desire to
 advance his *Majesties* glory.
 The Design was commend-
 able, and worthy an *Historio-*
grapher Royal. But what
 course did he take to in-
 crease his renown? he says,
that he travell'd abroad, on
purpose to spread throughout
 the

the world, the fame of his Majesties munificence to himself. I beseech you, Sir, how long will your English modesty overwhelm you? how much reason have You real Philosophers, and Mathematicians, to have high thoughts of your selves, if it shall be allow'd to a man, who has onely got some name by creeping into your companies, to beleive himself so considerable, that his Masters liberality to him ought to make to all mankind admire his Magnificence? The Christian

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
stian world has better signs
 of the greatness of the *King*
 of *France's* mind; his armies,
 and money have been hono-
 rably employ'd against *Al-*
giers and *Constantinople*. A-
 midst all these glorious ex-
 pences, what a mighty sound
 does it make, that the famous
Monsieur de Sorbiere did re-
 ceive a small stipend out of his
Treasury?

But that you may the
 better understand, who this
 great man is, that can either
 exalt, or diminish the ho-
 nor of *Princes* with a word
 of

of his mouth: I intreat you to hear his own description of himself. I will onely repeat in his own words, the praises, which in the compass of a few leaves, he has given his own merits: by which you may guess how unjustly he has misplac't, the titles of *proud*, and *arrogant*, when he bestow'd them on one of the best Natured, and bashfullest Nations in the world. He brags, that he has spent all his life, in advancing the reputation, and sustaining the interests of the Sciences;

P. 133.

E. Ded.

E.Ded. Sciences ; that he has always
push't on, and encourag'd the
great Masters of Knowledge to
labour : that he has made a

P.201. noyse wherever he came : that
he has got a discretion how to

E.Ded. judge of good things : that he
has mingled himself in the in-

E.Ded. trigues of the Muses ; that he
has been so happy, as to be heard
by them, and to get some credit

E.Ded. amongst them : that he holds
a constant commerce with the

Pref. chief heads of Parnassus : that
he has either been acquainted
with all the learned men of the
Age, or has had certain infor-
mation

Voyage into England
 mission concerning them: I that
 his King did not favour him,
 without understanding in him
 shall. Now Sir, I would not as
 any man that reads this con-
 clude, that Monsieur de Sor-
 bier is his own Historian,
 more then the King of France.
 Is this conformable to
 his own Rule, which he
 sayes he prescribes to himself
 not to make Elogies on any
 man? Before he had daid
 to have said so much of him-
 self, ought he not to have
 exceeded Julius Scaliger in
 his

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 his Learning, and his nobi-
 lity, as well as he has done
 in his spite to our Country
 whereas the plain, and the
 true story of *Monsieur de Sor-*
bier's life, is only this, he was
 borne at *Orange*, and for a
 long time profess'd the *Pro-*
testant Religion, all or the
 greatest part of his *Writings*
 have been only some few
 Letters, a small *Panegyric*
 on two, a translation of *Mr.*
Hobbes's de Cive, into *French*
 this *Description of England*
 and another of *Holland*. His
 first employment was

air

C

teach

teachra younger Son of the
Count de la Suze, then he was
 made Usher to a Schole in
 his Native City. Both
 these places he lost upon
 suspicion of some hetero-
 dok opinions in the fundas-
 mentals of Christianity, and in
 this discontent he came to
Paris, renounc'd his Reli-
 gion, and turn'd Papist. And
 at last, by many insinuations
 and flatteries, he obtained to
 have the profits of a small
Canonship of Avignon settled
 upon him. This Sir, is all
 the *Bruit* that *Monsieur de*

mol

C 2

Sorbiere

P. 201,

Observations on Mr. Saurier's
Saurier has made in the
 world. And this Confi-
 dent of the Muses, this Dar-
 ling of Parnassus, this Fav-
 orite of Cardinals, this Com-
 panion of Governors of Pro-
 vinces, this Genitor of Na-
 tions, this Judge of Kings,
 though he strove to advance
 himself by *non Religione*, yet
 the Office did never rise to a
 higher office than of a Pre-
 dicator, in the other never got
 a greater preferment, than a
 painful *Sine Cure* of the *bona*
the dicomand fear.

And yet you have no rea-
 son

I therefore think that he has been
 wanting to himself all this
 while, seeing in this very Ed
 pible you find him in plain
 terms beseeching his Majesty *E. Ded.*
 that he would employ him: 'Tis
 a modest request. But what
 other place is that which he
 can desire? he says that he
 has already been glorified with *P. 201.*
 the title of Trumpeter. After *E. Ded.*
 this, whither would his Ambition
 lead him? In this
Warfare of Letters (give me *E. Ded.*
 leave to prosecute his own *E. Ded.*
 Metaphor) the name of
 Trumpeter best becomes him

For (according to his Brother Trumpeter's defence of himself in the Fable) it is

never requir'd of such officers,

that they should

engage in the fight, or do any

Real Service, but they are

only us'd for a show, and to

shake a noise.

As for his other Quali-

fication of Historiographer

Royal, I will shew you

in one instance how he de-

serves it. He tells his King

that he has reported in every

Country where he came, the pro-

digious benefits, that heaven be-

beap'd

beap'd upon him : that to the
Statesmen he has proclaym'd
his Industry in business, and the
strength of his Judgement : to
the Souldiers, his Valour : to
the Friends of the Church of
Rome, his Piety : to the Gran-
dees, the Pomp of his Court : and
to the Fair Sex, his good Meen.
These, Sir , are all Brave
words, and he had a glori-
ous subject, whereon to am-
plifie. But let us consider
the authority of his testimo-
ny. For Monsieur de Sorbi-
ere, the Kings Historiographer,
when he might have had so
much

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
much better intelligence
when he might have alleg'd
the witness of all the brave
men in France, does yet o-
penly declare, that he re-
ceiv'd the image of his own
Prince's virtues, from the Re-
port of Madam Fierres, a La-
dy whom he met with acciden-
tally at Calais.

P. 8.

Upon the very entrance
into his journey, as soon as
he sets forth from Paris, he
gives evident proofs of the
lightness, and vanity of his
mind. From what he had
said before in his own com-
mendati-

commendation. I began to fancy in my thoughts, a ~~great~~ *Philosopher*, going forth with the intent to survey all civil States, that he might bring back their profitable Arts, and enrich his Native Country with them. I call'd to mind the Examples of *Pythagoras, Solon, Thales, Plato*, and almost all the first *wisemen* amongst the *Grecians*: who were wont to make long voyages into *Egypt*, and the *East*, for such honourable purposes. And upon this thought I was inclin'd to
forgive

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 forgive him all his former
 Boastings, and to look on
 them only as pardonable
 imperfections, which some-
 times accompany great Wits.
 And hence, Sir, you may
 think how much I was sur-
 pris'd, when I saw that the
 first fruits of his travels were
 an account of the pleasant com-
 pany, that he had on the way,
 of certain Polacks, that spoke
 Latine, that could play on the
 Violin, and that gave him a
 daunce twice a day. But
 hold Sir, I will not give him
 this occasion, to confirm the
 sentence,

sentence, which he has past upon us, that the *English* are of a gloomy, extravagant, fanatick, melancholy humour. I am content to allow him these divertisements. It was fit that he, who went forth to civilize barbarous Nations, should be attended as they were of old, with harmony. Yet you cannot but be delighted, when you observe the choice that he made: that he who undertook to censure, and refine manners, and to promote inventions, he who talks of nothing less

then

92
Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
then intrigues with the *Muses*,
should find nothing worth
mentioning in his journey
from *Paris* to *Calais*, but the
Musick, and the dauncing of
Poland. Seeing his skill is so
good in one of the *liberal*
Arts, seeing he was so well
satisfi'd in *France* it self, with
a *Fiddle* of *Cracon*, or *War-*
sham. I wonder he would
come into *England* to search
for *Philosophy*, and had not
rather gone to the famous *U-*
niversity of *Mosco*.

And yet Sir, to speak the
Truth, I can easily pardon
them
Monsieur

Monsieur de Siberie's address
 on to a Polistogian. This is
 not the worst thing, which
 he has expressed his incli-
 nation to that Country.
 He was turn'd out of his
 School at Prague for being
 an Atheist and a Deist. And
 therefore we may well allow
 them to be in Her Majesty's
 service, as they are in their
 own. And as for the
 Divinity, it is not what
 could be more to the
 point in this matter. He
 answers that he is not
 the same as the
 said Intellectual Man. And
 as for the
 Stagnation, it is not
 the same as the
 Stagnation by Monsieur de
 Courtebonne.

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 Courtebonne. Monsieur de Sor-
 bier waits upon her thither.
 The entertainment pleas'd him.
 For this he commends his Host,
 for one of the most accomplish'd,
 and obliging Gentlemen in
 France. And he professes, he
 thought himself bound in Con-
 science to make him this pub-
 lique acknowledgment. What
 is to be blam'd in all this?
 what could be more courtl-
 ly? what a greater sign of
 a scrupulous, and tender Con-
 science, then to believe him-
 self so much engag'd to be
 grateful for a good Potage?
 Courtebonne. what

what greater recompence
could a *Royal Trumpeter* make
to *Monsieur de Courtebonne*,
then thus to sound up his
meat? hitherto all is well.
But now, Sir, I pray recol-
lect, whether he deals so fair-
ly, and religiously, with your
fellow Professor, *Doctour Will-
lis*? to whom, for all his
good cheer, for a hearty
welcome, for shewing him
the *University of Oxford*, for
imparting to him many en-
richments, which he himself
confesses were admirable, he
has return'd no other thanks
then

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's

P. 100. then only a ridiculous description of his Cap. & a blue

P. 14. At his landing at Dover, he was saluted with ill language by the Boys. & Mr.

P. 17. thinks the handsome entertainment that he met with there at

his return, might have mov'd him to conceal this ill usage.

Though the matter is self, at the worst, was not worth

speaking of; for he might have consider'd, that it is an

ordinary thing for Boyes to have any great kindness

for School-Masters: & yet

49. 9. hence he takes occasion to inveigh

then

inveigh against the rudeness P. 14.
of the whole English Nation

I have already, Sir, engag'd
my self, to forbear comparisons:
or else, I might perhaps very justly,
contradict what he says, *that the Eng-*
lish are always welcom'd at P. 14.
Deip, and Calais, with so much
obliging care. We are indeed
with care enough. For the
inhabitants of those places
seiz on everypart of us, some
catch our Cloaks, some our
Hats, some our Cloak-bags:
and when we are by piece-
meals brought to Shore, our
D officious

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
officious friends demand their
own rates for having thus ob-
lig'd us: so that sometimes we
can scarce know, whether we
should call it a Landing, or
a Wreck. This, Sir, is more
then a verbal Incivility. Yet
I make no Conclusion from
hence against the whole
French Nation, but only a-
gainst the *Porters*, and *Mari-
ners*, of *Deip*, and *Calais*. And
the same Right ought *Mon-
sieur de Sorbier* to have done
us. He should not have
presently exclaim'd against
the whole *Kingdom*, for that
which

which is only to be attributed to the ill Discipline of *Dover-Schole*. This, Sir, may serve to give you some light, what kind of Judg we are like to find him in matters of greater weight: and when you read, that *he al-* P. 12.
ledges no other sign of the English Courage, then that their Butchers are delighted with the noble Combats of Bulls, Bears, and Dogs: I hope you will remember, that it is the same Man, who is here wise enough to pass a *General Rule*, concerning the *English ill*
D 2 *manners,*

Observations on Mr Sôrbier's manners, from the Rude behaviour of the Children of one of our Sea-Towns.

Yet, to do him right, in this particular, he does not cast all the blame on the *English*: but he involves
 P. 15. the *Dutch*, and the *Italians*, in the same common Crime. He here complains, that as we call the *Frenchmen Dogs*,
 P. 15. so the *Dutch* upbrayd them with the approbrious name of *Mushromes*, and the *Italians* with the worse term of *Fools*. For my part, I think all this by no means to be
 justifi'd,

justifi'd, if the accusation be true. But however, how does this consist, with that Flatt'ry which he uses to his KING, that wherever he came, he found the whole world ready to submit to the French Empire? What says he now? Is it probable, that all Nations are willing to make France the Seat of a Universal Monarchy, when at the same time, he assures us, from his own experience, that the usual Titles, which their Neighbours bestow upon them, are those of Dogs, Fools, and Mustromes?

E. Ded.

P. 9.

The next part of his Journey is from Dover to London. His error about the distance between these two places I forgive: though in threescore miles he mistakes ten.

P. 18.

All the evil touches which he here gives, concerning the Disposition of the *English*, I reserve for their proper place. But I must take notice how particularly the *Historiographer Royal* describes the *Waggoner of Canterbury*. The Horses were ty'd one before another: The Driver cloth'd in Black: a brave Mountaro

*Mountæro on his Head: a jo-
cund fellow; mighty well sa-
tisfy'd with himself: a great
Droll: in all things appointed
like another Saint George.
What think you now Sir?
may we not after this beleive
that Tom Coriat is one of the
cheif Heads of Parnassus,
with whom he has converst?
Where lyes the Difference
between these two Learned
Authors? That famous coun-
tryman of ours was just so
curious in his Relations:
neither Horse nor Man could
escape his Pen: on his*

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 host's Beard, and his Sign-
 Post he still declaym'd:
 Here are only wanting the
Frenchman's Bills of Fare
 every night, and you might
 have sworn, that *Mon-*
sieur de Sorbiere had inheri-
 ted the great, and inquisi-
 tive spirit of the *Noble Tra-*
veler of Odcomb.
 I will not here much in-
 sist on the Irreverence of
 this zealous *Roman Catho-*
lic, as we shall afterwards
 find him to be: though me-
 thinks it was not well done
 of him, to object to the *En-*
glish

glish their calling *Saint Paul*,
by the familiar Name of *Paul*;
when he himself has com-
par'd one of our chief *Saints* to
a *Waggoner*. Nor am I much
concern'd, to see him so pun-
ctual in describing the *Wag-*
goner of Canterbury to his
Shirt, and yet not to make a-
ny mention of *Thomas Becket*,
and *Austin the Monck*, the re-
nowned *Saints* of that place.
But yet I will here tell him,
that though he was so care-
less of his *Religion*, he might
have conceal'd this Chara-
cter of the *Waggoner* upon a-
nother

nother account : For he will hardly be able to perswade his *Reader*, that the best way to spread the report of the magnificence of his *Patron*, was to ride to *London* in a *Wagon*.

P. 18.

But to give you farther evidence of the solidity of his humour. In all the *Rode* between *London* to *Dover*, he forgets not to enlarge upon every thing that he saw, except only that which is one of the *bravest spectacles* in the *World*. He is very exact in surveying the *Bay-Windows* of

P. 26,

27.

of *Canterbury*. He fully describes the *Bowling-Greens*, P. 22. and the very *Rowlers*, that make them smooth: he speaks so *Romantically* of the *Val-* P. 22, *lies*, the *Hills*, and the *Hedges* 23, 24. of *Kent*, that the *Authors* of *Clelia*, or *Astrea*, scarce ever venture to say so much on the like occasion: he commends the convenient Form of P. 29. *Rochester Bridge*: which he says, is so contriv'd, that mens *Hats* cannot be blown over. Who can deny, but in all this he is a very circumstantial, and Faithful Relator?

But

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's

But I pray, Sir, mark, that he spends very many more lines in speaking of each of these *Toyes*, then of the most magnificent *Arsenal* at *Chat-tam*, which lyes just below that *Bridge*. Of this he only in-passing says, that here our *Ships of War* are built, and here they are laid up, when they return. And has he not here unawares betraid the *Levity* of his own mind? where then was his *Philosophical Curiosity*? where his *discretion to know good things*? where his *Love for Great, and Wonderful*

Wonderful Arts, ? what was
a fitter Prospect to have
stop'd at ? where could the
antient, or present *World*
have shewn a nobler Sight ?
For there, in one view, he
might have seen the *Ships*,
that command the *Ocean* :
that make this small people
that he despises, terrible to
the ends of the Earth. We
confess we yield to the
French in the Beauty of their
Cities, and *Palaces* : But in
our *floting Castles* we outgo
them as much. He is in the
right, that about *Paris*, there
is

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
is a far greater number of good
Buildings: But the Suburbs
which *London* has on the
Thames, and *Medway,* make
a sufficient recompence for
this defect; as long as we
exceed all the World, in the
Fabricks of Strength, and
Empire, we may easily al-
low him to object to us our
want of those of *Pleasure.*
And without question, the
Sovereign, the *Charles,* the
Prince, the *James,* the *Henry,*
the *London,* the *Resolution,*
and above an *hundred* more,
the best in the *World,* might
have

have been thought worthy naming by him, that almost reckons up the *Windows*, and the *Cellars* in *Canterbury*, and expresses himself so well satisfy'd to see, that *there was care taken*, that a plume of *Feathers* should not be disorder'd upon *Rochester Bridge*.

In his *Description of London*, he affirms that it is *P.32.*
bigger then Paris; and that it is a vulgar error of his *Countrymen* to think otherwise. And to manifest how vast he beleives its extent to be, he professes, that he would not undertake

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
P. 37. *undertake to frame an exact*
Idea of it in his mind, under a
whole years time. This, Sir,
methinks, might have admon-
ish'd him, that if he was
not able to take a full
draught of one City in less
then twelve Months, he has
been very presumptuous, (let
me return upon him his own
word) to conceive that he
could give a Character of
the Genius, and Vices of our
Nation, of the Constitution,
and Corruptions of our Church,
of the Weaknesses of our Go-
vernment, of the Pedantry of
our

our *Learning*, and of the
Barbarousness of our *Language*,
in *three Months* time.

This consideration ought
certainly to have stop'd his
Pen a little, especially seeing
the *Streets*, and the *Alleys* of
London stand still, and re-
present themselv's always in
the same fashion to our eys,
and it is enough to know
them perfectly only to tra-
vel them often through:
whereas it is so intricate a
work, to take a right Pro-
spect of the *Manners* of *Men*,
the *Humours* of *Nations*, and

E

the

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
the Secrets of Princes Coun-
sails, that it is perhaps the
most difficult employment of
 human *Wit.*

'Tis true indeed, he in-
 deavors to fetch a justifica-
 tion of his Insolence, from
 the *English* themselves: But
 the *Apology*, which he makes,
 rather aggravates his offence.

P. 10. He says, *he is confident,* that
 if he writ in our own language
 he should not displease us. And
 he gives this reason for it.

P. 11. that the *English* have ofte-
 n caus'd their Character to be
 publish'd: and that they have

this peculiar good Quality, that they love to have themselves handled plainly, and ill-spoken of. This he professes to mention in our praise. And if this be his Courtesie, I now find, that the Passengers with him in the Waggon had reason, when (as he complains) they interpreted his very Civilities for affronts. But P. 21. hold, Sir, what is this that he here says? has the English Nation ever caus'd its Character to be Printed? he speaks of it, as if it had been a thing done by Act of Parliament,

E 2

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
liament, and by the Autho-
 rity of the whole State. 'Tis
 true, Sir, there was (as you
 may perhaps remember) a
 small *Pamphlet*, that came
 out with the *Title of the Cha-*
racter of England, about six
 years ago. But that was
 pretended to be a *Translati-*
on out of French. (Or let
 us suppose that it was an
Englishman that writ it
 under that disguise: yet
 has *Monsieur de Sorbier* from
 thence any ground to say
 that the whole *English Nation*
 has often printed its own *Cha-*
racter

rather? I will give him one instance to shew how absurdly he did thus conclude, from one particular man, to a whole Country. *Monsieur de Sorbiere*, in his *Book of Letters*, has inserted (as he calls it) a *Sceptical Discourse concerning the City of Paris*: wherein he uses the *Metropolis* of all *France*, almost as injuriously, as he does the *English* in this *Relation*; with language as foul, as the *Dirt of Paris* it self. Now then, because *Monsieur de Sorbiere*, a private

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
vate inhabitant of *Paris*, has
presum'd to slander it, in
that manner; does it become
me to affirm that the whole
City of Paris has written a
scandalous Libel on it self?

But perhaps by this In-
stance which I have here
mention'd, *Monsieur de Sor-*
biere will raise an Argu-
ment, that shall be very
much to his own advantage.
For now he will be ready to
say, that the *English* have
no great reason to take his
Affronts unkindly, seeing
he has been already so free
of

of his Corrections, and Re-
proofs, as not to spare his
own Countrymen themselves.
I accept of his *Apology*. 'Tis
Pietatis plena Defensio: 'Tis
an excellent good Natur'd
Defence, for his rayling a-
gainst *Strangers*, that he
has done the same before,
against his own *Fellow-Citi-
zens*.

But to return to the *En-
glish-Book*, which he pro-
poses as his Pattern. Seeing
we have but one Libel in our
Language, against a whole
Country in general, let us

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 permit the *Historiographe*
Royal, to imitate it. Yet I
 cannot imagine how he
 came to understand that
Book alone, when he pro-
 fesses that he was utterly
 ignorant of the *English*
 P. 20. *Tongue* in all things else. It
 seems that reviling, and Sa-
 tyr is so natural to his mind,
 that he is able to conceive
 the sense of it, though the
Language in which it is writ-
 ten, be never so much un-
 known to him. However,
 if he compare the times of
 their publication, we shall

find that there is a great distinction between the crimes of the *English*, and the *French Satyrift*. The first of these was publish'd during the Tyranny of the late Usurpers: and though it was very severe on the *English* in many passages, yet the greatest part was spoken with a good intention, in reproof of the miserable distractions of that Age, and the many ill-Customs which a long Civil-War had introduc'd. I beg of you now, Sir, to consider, by what an Example
How he

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
he clears himself. Because
there was one Satyr writ-
ten on our Nation, in a time
of Licentiousness, and Con-
fusion: he will second it
now with a Worfe, when we
are settled in Peace, and Pro-
sperity. Seeing he thinks
this Plea sufficient, for what
he says against the Manners
of the *English*, that an *Eng-
lish-man* did the same under
Oliver, or *Richard*: I would
have him also defend him-
self in all his Slanders on our
Court, and the *King's Mini-
sters*, with an argument that
will

will resemble the other. For why may he not assert, that it is lawful for him now to use such Liberty; because *Milton* was allow'd by the *Rump*, to write a Villanous Book against the late *King* of Blessed Memory?

This weak excuse therefore, Sir, that he makes for his Barbarous way of handling Us, shall not serve his turn. He is so far from having receiv'd encouragement from the *English*: that I can shew him several Volumes of the Voyages of
some

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
some of our Countrymen,
into *Russia, Persia, Egypt, the*
Turkish-Empire, the East-Indies,
and *America*, which
have given a more advanta-
geous account of those *Infi-*
dels, and Barbarians, then
he has done of one of the
most polite Countries in
Europe. The *English* have
describ'd, and illustrated,
all parts of the Earth by
their Writings: many they
have discover'd; they have
visited all. And I dare assure
him, that they have been al-
ways most tender of the Re-
putation

putation of *foreign States*, which they have gone to visit, as they have been most merciful in sparing the *Natives* blood, in those Countries which they discover'd.

Let us now behold how *Monsieur de Sorbierre* has conform'd himself to this generous *English Spirit*. I will give you in a short view some of the good terms that he has bestow'd on our *Nation* in General. He says, *That we have skimm'd all the vices, and disdain'd the vir-* P. 12.
tues

tues of other Countries: that

P.112.

we contemn all the rest of the
World: that we esteem all
mankind besides miserable:

P.112.

that we scorn to look on them,
or to speak to them, when they

P.153.

travel hither: that we fre-
quently menace, and insult over
our neighbours: that it is very

P.113.

hard to know, how to get our
good will: that we have a

P.12.

strong union amongst our selves
against strangers: that we re-

P.13.

gard the prosperity of others
with an evil eye: that we have

P.11.

a natural inclination to idle-
ness, to presumption, to a cer-

tain

tain extravagance of thoughts,
which is to be found in our most
excellent writings: that almost
all the English are guilty of P. 11.
these faults, because they pro-
ceed from our Soyl: that our
humour is too free, and arro- P. 12.
gant: that we are voracious, P. 151.
and luxurious: that we submit
to any, that will fill our Bel- P. 122,
lies, let us rayl, and will not 123.
disturb our slothfulness: that P. 19.
we are scoffers, and malicious
speakers: that we are very ir- P. 112.
regular, and suspicious: that we P. 113.
are fill'd with dark thoughts:
that we are fierce, and capri-
cious

P.19.

cious: that we have a melancholy peculiar to us: that if we once get necessaries to support life, our idleness makes us

P.11.

careless of any more: that there are every where Doe-littles, proud, and Fanatick Persons

P.21.

to be met with: that there is nothing so crouching as an English man, if once you can find the means to make him afraid:

P.21.

that if you take away their Insolence, you take away their courage, and that they make but one leap, from the greatest buffe of pride into the basest cowardize.

Hc

He has wearied me, Sir,
and I can follow him no fur-
ther, in heaping up such
ignominious Trash. He ac-
knowledges, that *England* is
better known than any other
part of the World, by the *Bri-*
tannia of the most Learned *Mr.*
Cambden. And it is happy
for us that it is so. For, if
Foreiners should have no-
thing else to direct them
concerning us, but this fair
Idea which he has here gi-
ven; I suppose they would
travel hither with the same
caution, as we do into *Green-*
land,

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's land, to fish for Whales: they would only touch upon our shores, and stand upon their guard at every noyse, least the wilde Bears should surprize them unawares. I intreat you to recall into your mind the description, which Caesar makes of the salvage manners of this Island, at the time that he conquered Gaul and Britain together, you will find that Monsieur de Sorbiere is less milde in his expressions on us now, then that great Conqueror was on the untaught and original

Original Inhabitants, that liv'd
in Forrests, and painted
their Bodies, to make them
appeare more dreadfull.
Whatever reflections had
been made on our Imper-
fections, we might perhaps
have patiently receiv'd them
from the hands of the *Ma-*
ster of Rome, that had *civi-*
liz'd us; and it may be too
from one of his *Trumpeters*,
so he had been a *Roman*.
But we cannot from a *Schole-*
Master of Orange, from a
Trumpeter of Little Briddin,
from a man that came hither

Observations on Mr. Sotbier's
 to pick up Presents of
 Gloves, and Ribbands, and
 (as he himself confesses) to
 P. 161, collect some certain debts, that
 162. were here owing to his Friends.

When I first, Sir, beheld
 all this good language which
 he has given us, I did pre-
 sently cast about and exa-
 mine what might be the
 cause of his Rage. And at
 last I had from one of his
 acquaintance intimation e-
 nough to guess, why he was
 pleased to be thus incens'd.
 When he return'd from his
 second visit to the King, this

Gentleman ask'd him, How his Majesty had receiv'd him? he reply'd, *Kindly enough*: but, *he expected, he would have presented him with some Medall.* This, Sir, was the Provocation, And this was the occasion, that made him lay about him so terribly. What Indignation can be great enough against such baseness? Are these *Writers of Letters, and Flatteries, and Romances*, such dangerous men? Must the *King of England* deal with them, as some petty *Bordring Princes*

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 are forc'd to do with the
Turk? Must he buy them
 off, and pay tribute to them,
 lest they should invade his
 Territories at their plea-
 sure? *Monsieur de Sorbiere,*
 Sir, is a man of ripe Age, he
 pretends to have been fami-
 liar with *Embassadors, Gene-*
rals, and Nuntio's: he lays
 claim to the title of *Philoso-*
pher, and to the most gene-
 rous Sect of Philosophy, he
 tells us *he is a Sceptick.* But
 did he ever yet hear of an
 Example of a Philosopher,
 that prefer'd a petty gift,
 before

before the sweetness, and the obligation of so *Great* and so *Magnanimous* a *Prince's* conversation ? It has indeed been told us, that some *Philosophers* of old have transgress'd on the contrary, and have refused the Bounty of *Monarchs*, that they might preserve the liberty of their minds : But in all *History* there can be no such instance shewn, that a man should forfeit his Truth, and Honesty, for the want of a *Medall*, unless it be of him, that first renounc'd his Consci-

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
ence, and chang'd his Reli-
gion, to obtain a Pension.*

In answer to these calum-
nies with which he has as-
persed us, I will onely in
plain and simple terms, say
as much as may confute his
reproaches: But I will not
set upon a long, and a so-
lemn *Panegyrick* of our Na-
tion: For it is not my bu-
siness here to *paint*, but only
to *wash*.

The first Slander, of which
I shall take notice, he pre-
tends to be a Proverbial-
Speech; that we have de-
spis'd

*spis'd all the good, and
skimm'd all the bad, of other
people.*

As for the first part
of it, whether we have
scorn'd all the good quali-
ties of others, I am con-
tent to have try'd by his

own words. He graunts,
that in very many things, we

imitate the magnanimous Spi-

P. 12.

rit of the Antient Romans.
And if we have been so care-
ful to learn Vertue, from an
Empire that was long ago

at an end: how could he
imagine, that we contemn
all that is commendable in

the

the Living? I thank him that he has resembl'd us to the greatest men of all Antiquity: But in the Instance, which he alledges, he does well express what Sence he has of greatness of Mind, and honorable Actions: For, He reckons the Fights of their Gladiators to be one Chief Sign of their Virtue: Which was a cruelty, that all the Civil World do blame them for besides. I will confess *Monseigneur de Sorbier* to be a better Master of Defence than any that he
saw

Saw at the Red-Bull, if after P. 172.

this he can prove to Me, that he is a fit Man to distinguish, what is Insolence, and what is Courage, in the *English*; Seeing he counts it to have been a great piece of Bravery in the *Romans*, that they were delighted in beholding their Slaves, and their Captives, murder one another. And whereas he says, *that we are infected with Outlandish-Vices*; I cannot forbear telling him, that if this should be graunted partly true, that we are in
some

some measure degenerated
 from the Native Vertue, and
 Innocence of our Ancestors,
 in *Edward the Third*, and
Henry the Fifth's time ; yet
 it is easie to tell, from what
 Coast the Infection was
 transported hither ; and we
 may say with *Horace* in a
 like case, though in respect
 of worse Arts then he inten-
 ded ;

Græcia capta ferum victo-
rem cepit, & Artes
Intulit Agresti Latio.

He

He next objects to us, That
we have a strong union amongst
our selves against Strangers,
and that it is almost impossible
to get our good will. This,
Sir, is so far from being true,
that (you know) it may
well be computed, that we
have more Foreiners in
Norwich, Canterbury, and
London, who are permitted
to Trade, and to injoy the
Privilege of Natives, then
there are constantly resid-
ing in any Twenty Cities of
Italy, Spain, or France.

He upbraids us with fre-
quent

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
quent menacing, and insulting
over our Neighbours. This he
speaks with particular re-
spect to the Hollanders Trade.
But who made him Judge
of the rights of Peace, and
War? He acknowleg'd be-
fore, that all other affairs,
except only those of the Sciences,
and Learned men, lie out of his
way. Why does he then
thrust in to be Arbitrator of
the differences between the
Dutch, and Us? to call those
Menaces and Affronts, which
an Assembly that represents a
mighty Nation, has already
styl'd*

Pref.

styl'd demands of just satisfaction? and which the great Sovereign of the Seas will shortly make appear to be a Vindication of the Law of Nations? But if *Monsieur de Sorbier* beleives, that our present contentions with the *Low-Countrymen*, are only rude *Affronts*, and not just Grievances; I am certain he was once of another mind, when he writ his *Letter to Monsieur de Courcelles* in the year 1652. Wherein he extols the *Rumps* Victories over them, and presages

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 a glorious Empire to those
 Tyrants, from their absolute
 subduing them.

He says, *that we will not*
vouchsafe to speak to those that
travel hither; and yet he calls
us presumptuous, Raileurs, Ar-
rogant, and Evil-Speakers.
 But to this it shall suffice me
 to reply, that seeing the same
 man condemns our Silence,
 and our Speech, it is a good
 Argument, that we are mo-
 derate, and unblamable in
 Both.

He declares, that *We re-*
gard the Prosperity of others
with

with Jealousie: whereas, there is not one of our Neighbors, to whom our Assistance could reach, but we have ayded in their Calamities. The United Provinces, notwithstanding their present apprehensions of us, will still confess that their Common-Wealth was founded upon English Valour. The Great Henry of France was establish'd in his Throne by Queen Elizabeth's succours. And while I am writing this, the Portuguez behold one of the surest Ramparts of their
G Liberty,

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 Liberty, to be the Breasts
 of *English* Souldiers.

He proceeds to affirm,
 that we will serve any man, that
 will feed us, suffer us to rail,
 and be idle. But to give
 him a full Testimony, how
 careful the *English* are of
 their own Liberty, it is en-
 ough to say, that they in-
 deavor, more then most o-
 ther Nations, to preserve in-
 violable the freedom of man-
 kind in general; For they
 never make Slaves of their
 Prisoners of War in any part
 of *Europe*, which perhaps
 few

few other Nations have for-
born. And that the world
has a better opinion of us, he
may be convinc'd by this,
that the Natives of all Tra-
ding-Countries, have still
maintain'd a peculiar re-
spect for the *English* integri-
ty; and that wherever the
Bounds of our Empire have
reach'd in antient Times,
there still remains on the
minds of the people, a Re-
membrance of the easiness
of the *English* Government.
If all this will not satisfie
him, that the *English* are not

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
of a more Servile Disposition than other Countries; I will put him upon an Employment, which may well become his Abilities: Let him make a computation of the Footmen, Grooms of Chambers, and Cooks in Europe, and then let him tell me, whether he finds those of the *English Nation* to be the most *Numerous*.

He asserts, that the *English* are suspicious, dark, irregular, capricious, and that they have a Melancholly peculiar to themselves. In this, methinks

methinks his small Philosophy should have instructed him better, that such dismal qualities are not the necessary Companions of the Complexion of *Angels*, which he allows them. But he that went dauncing from *Paris* to *Calais*, and at *Calais*, as soon as he alighted out of the *Chasse Marin*, could not abstain from going to a Puppet-Play (for that I suppose he means, when he says, he saw a Comedy there) is not a fit man to Censure what is the difference, between what

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 is Fantastical, and good
 Humour, between the Seri-
 ous, and the Sullen. How-
 ever he has made some Re-
 compence to us for this dis-
 grace. He has describ'd
 the Vigorous, and the
 Sprightly Humour of the
 French, in such a manner,
 as makes it no very desirable
 Accomplishment. For he
 tells us, that wherever they
 come, they make such a Noyse,
 as to draw all the Children, and
 the Dogs in the Town after them.
 And I suppose, it is such a
 kind of Bruit as this, that
 Monsieur

P. 16,
 17,

Monsieur de Sorbierre says, he has made in all places, where he arrived.

He often says, that we are all *Idle, Sluggish, and Doe-littles*. Upon this he insists so frequently, that I conceive his *French Readers*, that never saw *England*, will be apt to believe that he found it such a Country as *Lubberland*: that he caught all the *Inhabitants* stretch'd out on their *Backs*, and sleeping under *Trees*. But whence could he gather this conception of our *stupidi-*

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
ty? The places that he vi-
sited, were onely those on
the Road to *Oxford*, and *Lon-*
don, and some few other No-
blemens houses besides. I
hope he did not conclude
our Nation to be so lazy,
from the quiet of the streets,
and the retirement of the
Colleges in the *University*:
yet when I remember what
judgement he made on our
Rudeness at *Dover*, and from
whence he took his conje-
cture, I am likewise inclin'd
to think that he has discreti-
on enough to determine up-
on

on the *English* sluggishness,
from the private way of liv-
ing of our *Scholars*. It must
be so, For every where else
he beheld many marks of
diligence. In his Journey
to *London*, he confesses, *It* P. 13.
was admirable to see, what an
infinite number of *Seamen*, and
Shipwrights, were at work on
the *Banks* of the *Thames*. In
London it self he reports, that
there are more *Shops*, and bet- P. 40.
ter beautified, then in any *Citty*
in the *World*. He found every
where in *England*, men busie
about *Natural Experiments*,
from

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
from whose labours he is confi-
dent, mankind may expect pro-
digious Inventions. And are
 all these the signs of an over-
 grown slothfulness? But be-
 sides these, Sir, he never
 saw any of the cheif Seats of
 the *English* Industry, he be-
 held not the *Cole-pits* of *New*
Castle, the *Clotbworks* of the
West, and the *North*, the *Lead*
Mines of *Derby*, the *Orchards*
 of *Hereford*, the *Plough-lands*
 of *Devon*, the *New Rivers* of
 the *Fenns*, the *Tinn Mines* of
Cornwall. These, and many
 more, he should have view'd:
 most he

he should thence have passed into our *Western Colonies*: he should have considered the *Sugar works* of the *Barbadoes*, the *Tobacco Plantations* of *Virginia*, the *Silk Trade* that is begun there, and the *Vast Mole*, which goes on at *Tangier*, that pittifull place (as he terms it :) after all these surveys he might have been a fitter Judge of the *English labours*. This exactness of Information might have been expected from an *Historiographer Royal*. But he has been as carefull in this,

P.175,

as

as in most of the rest of his Intelligence. For as soon as ever he sets his foot on the English shore, he strait positively condemns all the whole Nation of laziness, from the first Posthorse that he saw gallop.

P. 10.

His last disgrace is the English cowardize. And the occasion from whence he takes this Observation is very remarkable,

P. 21.

He saw an Oxford Scholar affronted by a Frenchman that had been seven years the Protector's soldier: And thence He passes sentence on

the

the baseness of our Nation.

What, Sir, will the Dutch and the Spaniards think of this?

The one, when they remember the Battels of Portland,

and the North foreland, and

the other, when they call to mind *Tenariff*, and the sandy

bills of *Dunkirk*? Will they

not take it very ill at his

hands, that he should reckon

all those for Cowards, whom

Cromwells Soldiers had de-

feated? But if our late civil

Warrs have not given an un-

confutable evidence of the

English valour: if the mag-

bnA

nanimous

Observations on Mr. Surbier's
 unanimous Deaths of so ma-
 ny Martyrs for the Royall
 Cause do not prove it: If
Eighty Eight: if the Im-
 mortal Sir Richard Greenville,
 if our Conquests of Ireland,
 and Scotland be forgotten:
 if the joynt Testimony of al-
 most all the Historical Wri-
 ters for these last six hun-
 dred years be of no ac-
 count: yet (to say no more)
 I could never have believ'd
 that any French Historiogra-
 pher would have given it un-
 der his hand, that the En-
 glish are Cowards. *And*

And now, Sir, having laid all these Ignominies together, would you not have ghefs'd that he would never have dar'd, to pronounce so boldly upon us, unless he had convers'd all his Life time with us; unless he had thoroughly studied our Temper, and deeply pierc'd by a long search into the Composition of our Nature? But when I find, that *as soon as ever he was call'd Monsieur by the Children of Dover, he straight makes Conclusion of our general Inhospitality: and of*

from *our*

Observations on Mr. Serbier's
our Insolence from the next Car-
rier that he employ'd: and of
our Abusiveness, from a silly
Zealander, that was his fel-
low-Traveller: and of our
want of Courage, from a piti-
ful Fray between a naked scho-
lar, and an armed French
Souldier, at Beaconsfield. This
puts me in mind of the
Judgment, which one of the
greatest men that ever liv'd,
did passe on the Antient
Gaules. It was the expe-
rience of Cesar himself, of
their trifling, and change-
able Humour, that in their
most

most solemn Councils, they de-
termin'd on the weightiest Af-
fairs, upon the Authority of
any slender Report of the next
wandering Redlar. This I
hope I may repeat, without
offending the present French
Nation. For I do not say,
(as Monsieur de Sorbier of
us) That it came from the
Nature of their Soyl, and that
therefore it must needs de-
scend on all that are born
on the same Earth. But I
only affirm, that I know a
certain French Trumpeter,
that has made good this
assertion.

H

Obser-

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
Observation of the Cafars.*

This, Sir, being the Form, which he has fanci'd in his Brain of the wild Manners of the *Engliſh*, it is eaſie to gueſs, what thoughts he has of their Religion. And the Truth is, having represented us, as ſuch Monsters, in our Civil Cuſtoms, and Behaviour, he could do no other, then paint us out to be as bad as Infidels, in our Spiritual Condition. For whoſoever are Barbarous in their Lives, can never be good
Christians

Christians in their Hearts. It is the peculiar glory of the *True Christianity*, that it does not onely Save, but Civilize, its Reall Professours.

We shall therefore find, that his reproaches are proportionable, concerning our *Religion*. And by the Irreverence of the Language which he uses towards it, you may perceive, that he did not only learn from the *Trooper* that was his Companion to Oxford, that the *English* are *Insolent*, and Co-

H 2 wards :

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
wards :* But that he also fur-
nish'd him with this Intelli-
gence of *Church*. For this

account, which he has here
set down, could have been
given by no man Living so
properly, as by *one that had*

P.21.

*been a Soldier in Cromwell's
Army.* To pass by the friend-
ly names of *Schismaticks*, and
Hereticks, which he as freely
bestows upon us as if they
were our National Titles :

he has ventur'd to say, that

P.45.

*We separated from the Church
of Rome for shameful causes,
that are known to all the
World :*

World : that the people has an P.43.

universal Aversion from the

Religion establisht by Law :

that there is a probability, that

all our Sects may shortly unite

to destroy it : that our solemn

Publique Prayers are only a P.43.

Morsel of a Liturgy : that P.44.

the King did the most hazard-

ous thing he could undertake,

when he restor'd Episcopacy :

that our Ecclesiastical Govern- P.44.

ment is nothing else, but the

Shaddow, and the Corruption

of the true Hierarchy : that P.45.

the Introduction of our Church-

Service into Scotland, was the

cause of the shedding of so much
Blood in the three Nations :

P. 53. that our chief Clergy men, who
have Pluralities of Benefices,
make their Grooms their Cu-
rats : that our Bishops do

P. 52. horribly abuse their Jurisdicti-
on, in their Excommunicati-
ons, and Impositions : that

P. 53. they are so haughty, that none
of the Inferiour Priests dare
speak to them : that they rob

P. 62, the Church, by letting its Lea-
63. ses for thirty years ; getting all
the Money into their own
Pockets, and leaving only a
small Revenue to their Suc-
cessours ;

cessours: that *England* is a P.63.

Country, where no man is afraid of committing *Simony*.

This, Sir, is his Judgment of our *Church*. And you may be pleas'd to observe, that this Catalogue of Slanders is equally made up of those, which the most furious of the *Romanists* on the one side, and the most *Fanatick* amongst the *Non-conformists* on the other, are wont to Revile us withall: So that in repeating them, he does at once act both the Parts, which he had before

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
plaide in the World at several
times, that of a violent
Calvinist, and a *Jesuitical*
Papist.

And first, it is false that
our *English Reformation* began
upon a shamefull occasion,
or from the extravagance of
a private passion. I know
he has the famous story of
King Henry's Divorce to oppose
against what I say. But
I am not startled at that, no
more then at the *Fable* of
our *Bishops Consecration* at
the *Naggs-head Tavern*; or,
of the *Kentish-mens* having
long

long Tayls for the murder
of *Thomas Becket*. Such fri-
volous Arguments as these
might have served well e-
nough in the Mouths of the
Moncks two hundred years
agoe: But they will not pass
so easily in a Philosophical,
and Inquisitive Age. In
breif therefore, Sir, it is evi-
dent that *King Henry the*
Eighth did never intend to
proceed to a much greater
distance from the *Roman See*,
then the *Gallican Church*
maintains at this day. There
is no man of our *Church*, that
yd looks

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
looks upon his breach with
the *Pope*, to have been a *Re-*
formation. We onely esteem
it to be of the nature of
those Quarrels, which many
Princes in the most *Catholick*
Countries, have manag'd a-
gainst the *Holy Chair*. The
Reformation to which we
stand is of a latter date. The
Primitive Reformers amongst
us, beheld the Reason of
men tamely subjected to one
mans Command, and the
Sovereign Powers of all
Christendom still expos'd to
be check'd, and destroy'd
by

by the Resolutions of his private Will. Upon this they arose to perform two of the greatest Works in the World, at once to deliver the minds of Christians from Tyranny, and the Dignity of the Throne from Spiritual Bondage. Whatever was the accidental, this was the Real Cause of our first *Reformation*, and of their separation from us, not ours from them. And this was an event which must needs have come to pass near the time in which it did, though

King

King Henry had never forsaken his Wife. Let him therefore know, that our *Doctrine* (as much spoyl'd as it is, in his opinion) was establish'd by *Christ* and his *Apostles*: and that the Ceremonies of our Worship, were not set up by faction, or by popular Fury, but by the deliberate Counsels of Wisemen, and by the authority of that power, which bears the immediate Image of *God*. This, Sir, I have said in Vindication of our *Church*, not so much to satisfy this idle Dreamer

Dreamer upon *Parnassus*, as out of the love which I bear to many well-meaning *Catholiques* amongst us, who have this Argument sometimes in their mouths, of whom I know very many, whose wishes for the happiness of their Country, and for its freedom from foreign Usurpations, are as honourable as any *Englishmens* living. As for *Monsieur de Sorbier's* part, it had been a sufficient Reply to him, that I can name a man, who has indeed separated from the Religion

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
ligion wherein he was born, for
a shamefull cause which is
known to all the World.*

He declares that the people
of England have an universal
aversion from the establisht
Worship. But here I cannot
say that of him for which he
commends Doctor Wallis, that
P. 100. He is one of the best Account-
ants in the World. This po-
sitive Computation he ne-
ver was in any capacity to
make, he never saw any of
the middle, or the remoter
parts of our Nation, where
Non-conformity is but very
spa-

sparingly spread. He never convers'd with the vast Body of Gentry, and Yeomanry that live Country lives, who are generally uninfected. It is *London* alone on which he must rely for this calculation. And yet even in this too, I dare openly assure him, that the farr greater number is for the Rights of the Church, then against them. But I advise *Monsieur de Sorbiere*, that before he thinks himself able to make an exact judgment of the Number of our Religious

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
gious Sects, he would first
correct all his errors in
Arithmetick, which are to
be found in this Book, about
the most obvious things, in
reckoning of which, it was
enough to have onely had
the understanding of the
least childe that he ever
taught. I will onely produce
one in this place. Have we
not reason to rely upon his
opinion of the difference of
the parties in the whole
Kingdom; when in the least
number that can be, he has
mistaken half. For, he says,

that

that the double-bottom'd Vessel
has two Masts in the Front,
when every Sculler on the
Thames knows it has but
One. He affirms, that the Go-
vernment of our Bishops is no-
thing else, but the shadow,
and the corruption of a True
Hierarchy. And he gives this
excellent Reason for it, be-
cause here the Spiritual sub-
mits to the Temporal. This ve-
ry Argument I will turn up-
on himself. It is therefore
the True, the Sound, the
Apostolical Episcopacy: be-
cause

P.44.

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 cause it does yield to the Tem-
 poral Power, which else could
 be nothing but a shadow. It
 is the glory of the Church of
 England, that it never re-
 sisted Authority, nor in-
 gag'd in Rebellion: which
 is a praise, that makes much
 to its advantage, in the
 minds of all those, who have
 read of the dismal effects of
 the Scotch Covenant, and the
 holy League.

He says, that our King did
 put himself on the most dange-
 rous Enterprize that could be
 attempted, when he restored
 Episcopacy.

Episcopacy. And yet he confesses that our other *Sects* are inconsistent with any Government but a *Common-wealth*. What dreadfull danger could be imagin'd in a *Monarchs* destroying that, which must needs fall of it self in a *Monarchy*? But to shew how much he was mistaken, It is evident, that upon his *Majesty's* most glorious Return, the *Church* soon recover'd all its rights of Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, of sitting in Parliament, and even all its Lands, which had

I 2

been

been long held by Armed
Usurpers, without any o-
ther Opposition, then what
was made by General Vennor,
and his forty men: who it
seems did run the greatest
hazard of the two.

iii He declares that there is
so great a distance between our
Bishops, and our inferior Cler-
gy, that these dare not speak
to, nor stand cover'd before,
them. This, Sir, you and I
can prove to be a manifest
Untruth, by several Instan-
ces. But however, what
course can we take to please
this

this grave Censurer of our Civility? He here dislikes the respects, that we shew to our cheif Churchmen: and in another place, He condemns the familiar behaviour of our common Soldiers towards their Officers. He abuses the Clergymen for standing bare to those Reverend and Aged Persons; and the Red-Coats for keeping P.122. on their Hatts in the presence of their Captains. How sufficient a Judge is he of good manners, that would bring the rude Customs of a Camp into the Church, and the Pun-

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
Billio's of Observance, and
Courtship, into an Army.*

But he accuses us of a
greater Crime. It is but just
that there should be so great
a distance, if our Clergymen
that have Pluralities, make
their Grooms supply their Cures.

In this part of his Character
he certainly, Sir, mistook the
Country, and intended this
for some other Kingdom in
Europe, where he had also
miss'd of a Medall. It is a
sign that he is as little ac-
quainted with his own
Church, as he is with ours:

or

or

or else he would never have objected to us our *Pluralities*, which are infinitely fewer, and more confin'd amongst us: he would never have ventur'd to upbraid us with the *Ignorance* of our *Parish Priests*, lest we should have provok'd the whole *Church of Rome* to a comparison. In breif, Sir, our *Slaves* do not serve at our *Altars*: and I will also add, that our *Chief Spiritual Dignities* are not intayl'd upon *Families*, nor possess'd by *Children*. In all the *Parishes* of *England*; I

dare challenge not only
him that is a Stranger, But
the most bitter Enemies to
our Discipline, to shew
me Twenty Pulpits, that are
fill'd with men, who have
not spent their Youth in
Studies to prepare them,
and who have not the Au-
thority of Holy Orders.

That He has presum'd to
call our Publique Solemn
Prayers, only a Morsel, or a
Scrap of a Liturgy; I do
not much wonder. For he
that has long made his own
Religion his Cook, has one of

our Poets expresse it) may well be thought irreligious enough ; to take a *Metaphor* for ours from a *Kitchen*. But besides this, he asserts, that the *Introduction of the English Liturgy into Scotland*, was the cause of the shedding of all the Blood in the three Nations. This Speech might have well fitted the mouth of *Bradshaw*, or the Pen of *Ireton*. For it lays all the guilt of so much Slaughter, on the most Innocent, and most merciful Prince, that ever wore a Crown: by
whose

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
whose special care, an Uni-
formity of Worship was at-
tempted in that *Kingdome*.
But to give him better light,
and to let him see, that there
were other Causes of our
Miseries, in one of these
three Countries at least, I
would fain have him ask
this Question of the *Pope's*
Legat that was in *Ireland*,
whether the horrible *Irish*
Massacre was committed for
no other reason, but only out
of a tender Brotherly sense
of the Yoke which was laid
by the *Common-Prayer*, on
the

the *Scotchmen's* Consciences.

He tells us, that *it is an ordinary thing with our Bishops, to exercise their Ecclesiastical Censures upon frivolous accounts.* But methinks he might have remembered, that it was not probable, they should seek out any trifling occasions of excommunication, when, by his own confession, they have so many weighty Provocations: if that be true, that the whole Nation neglects their Discipline. But, Sir, you know it is apparent to all indiffe-

rent

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
rent Men, that the *Bishops*
have been most remarkably
moderate in their *Visitations* :
and that the Punishments,
which have been inflicted
on the Obstinate, have for
the most part proceeded
from the *Temporal* Sword,
and not the *Spiritual*. But,
because he here quarrels at
the Absoluteness of our *Bi-*
shop's power, I leave him to
be answer'd by the whole
Clergy of the *Church* of *Rome*,
who ought to be alarm'd by
this. For if ours shal be repu-
ted so Tyrannical, what will
they

they be esteem'd, whose Jurisdiction is so much larger?

He goes on to defame our Bishops. He says, *they have imbezled the Church Lands, to make their own Families*

Rich. This, Sir, is an Objection, which though it was at first manag'd against them with great Clamour, by the common Enemies of the *King*, and the *Church*:

yet now upon a calmer consideration of things, it has universally lost its credit, even in those places where he says, *the English take To-*

P. 130.

bacco

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
bacco half the day together;
from whence he acknowledges,
that he had a good part of his
Relations. The first mur-
murs against them were
rais'd, because they receiv'd
altogether, some part of
that which was their due;
for twenty years before. But
the Envy of that was quick-
ly scatter'd, when it was ma-
nifest how many publique,
and Generous works they
have promoted. Besides
the first Fruits, and Tenths,
and above all the Subsidies,
which have swept away*

a good part of their gains, they have compounded with a very great Number of the Purchasers; they have increas'd the Vicarages in their Gift to Fourscore Pounds a year: they have indow'd Alms-Houses, and Colleges, they have built Chappels, they have repaired the Episcopal Palaces, and Cathedrals, which were generally gone to Ruine; they have redeem'd at once all the *English*, that were Slaves at *Algiers*, and that too I dare assure him,
without

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 without any intent to make Cu-
 rats of them. The Account which he
 gives of their letting Leases is
 most ridiculous. There
 is no man amongst them,
 that lets a Lease for thirty years.
 The Reserved Rent is that
 which was always the stand-
 ing Revenue of the Church.
 Nor ought this Custom to
 be Objected against the
 Church of England. It is
 the same course which is ta-
 ken in France, and most o-
 ther parts of Christendom.
 Nay, to go farther, the letting
 of

of *Church Leases* is a business, whose Regulation was brought about since the time, that the *Church* of *Rome* divided from us. Before *Queen Elizabeth's* reign, the *Churchmen* had a power of Farning out their Lands, not only for *Thirty*, but for *Ninety Nine* years. It was *Shree*, that first confin'd the Term to *One* and *Twenty*; and so it still remains. He ought not therefore to reckon this practice as our disgrace: when the good order, that is now us'd about it, is the pe-

b'hist

K

culiar

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
culiar honour, that belongs
to the *English Reformation*.

But to Conclude, if *no*
Man fears Simony in England,
then there is no man that is
affrighted with punishment.
For our Laws are as strict
against it, and as severely
executed, as any where else.
However, if it were true,
(which is far from being
so) that we Simoniacally
imploy the Church estate to
Secular uses; yet this sounds
very ill from that *Layman's*
Pen, who, when he writ
this *Voyage*, was main-
tain'd

tain'd out of the Ecclesiastical Revenue. This, Sir, was Monsieir de Sorbier's Case. And the first Office of a Churchman that ever he perform'd, it was in this Book, where He devoutly prays to God, to make Mr. Hobbs a Roman Catholique. Which if his prayers can obtain from Heaven, he deserves not only to be made a Priest, or Bishop, but even a Saint too. For this will be a far greater Miracle, then any of those for which many have been Canoniz'd.

P. 99.

elqio

K 2

And

And now, Sir, can you require any greater signs of *Monsieur de Sorbier's* Sincerity in his *Religion*? He has accus'd of *Simony*, the most Incorrupt: of *Pride*, the Humblest: of *Rapacity*, the most Innocent: of *Ignorance*, the most Learned: of false *Doctrine*, the most Primitive: of ill *Discipline*, the most Decent *Church* under Heaven. And when nothing else could be said, he even upbraids it with its *Submission and Obedience*, To shew, (that he is as ill a Disciple

sciple of *Mr. Hobbes's*, whom he pretends to admire, as he is of the Apostles.) Notwithstanding all which impudent Disgraces, there remains this one comfort to the *Church of England*, that the same man, who now vilifies Her so basely, had once as mean thoughts of the God-Head of Her blessed Founder Himself.

But it is easie to conjecture at the Cause of this his harsh Usage of our *Church*. He had but lately Apostatiz'd from the *Reformed Re-*

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
ligion in France; he was but
just enter'd into the *Romish*
Communion. And he sus-
pected, that there might
be some doubts still remain-
ing on mens minds, of the
Reality of his Conversion,
which might turn to the
prejudice not onely of his
Spiritual, but of his Tem-
poral Estate: he had given
himself out for a great *Phi-*
losopher; and he understood
well enough, that few *Phi-*
losophers are thought to al-
ter their minds, that have
once been *Protestants*. He

noigil

K 3

was

was therefore resolv'd to
give an Unquestionable
proof of his Establishment
in the Faith, by reviling the
Church of England. And
in performing this, I con-
fess, Sir, he has Counter-
feited the Zealot very well:
he has prosecuted Us, with
all the Violence, and Bi-
gottry, which commonly
accompanies new Converts.
But yet I beleive this will
hardly do his business. Even
in this very Book, he gives
Eyidence enough, that *Cal-
vinism*, and *Heretic*, are not

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 wholly rooted out of his
 Heart. He grossly abuses
 the most devoted Children
 of the Church of Rome, the
 English Roman Catholics.

P.64.

He complains of them, that
 they have no mind to disturb
 the Peace of their Country to-
 wards the restoration of their
 Religion : which is indeed
 spoken to their Honour,
 though he intends it to their
 Shame. He says, that they

P.64.

are not so zealous in their Way,
 as forein Papists, the quite
 contrary to which is true :

P.64.

he makes, as if they never
 ylorw A N saw

saw the True Mass perform'd:
he affirms, that they are all
born in Servitude, and de-
bases so many Antient, Rich,
and Honourable Families,
to the condition, and the
minds, of Slaves. In all
these Speeches, he does not
express any certain mark of
a True Profelyte. But a-
bove all, he has set down
such a determination of his
Faith, that if he had made
it in Italy, or Spain, he had
undoubtedly fallen into the
Inquisition. He boldly pro-
nounces, that Transubstan-
tiation,

P.64.

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
tiation, Purgatory, the Me-
rit of Works, Invocation of
Saints, the Supremacy of the
Bishop of Rome, the authori-
ty of Councils, and the Infal-
libility of the Pope, are none
of them Fundamental Do-
ctrines. What greater A-
pology could be made for
the Church of England,
which he has so much
defam'd: seeing these are
the onely shameful Causes,
for which we dissented from
Rome?*

*But I leave him to be cor-
rected by the Pope's Sen-
tence*

tence for these Heresies:
which perhaps the Holy Fa-
ther has reason to think, do
more shake the Holy Chair,
then the five points of *Jani-
senius* that he condemn'd:
which Monsieur de Sorbierre
says, *did raise a dispute about* P.60.
a matter of Nothing.

From our Religion, Let
us follow him to our Govern-
ment. And here, Sir, I
was at first a little at a stand
how to deal with him. But
I have heard of the Magna-
nimonous resolution of the
late

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
late *Duke of Buckingham*,
who would never permit
any *Apology* to be written for
him. And I consider, that
it is almost as great an arro-
gance for *one* obscure *Wri-*
ter, to undertake to defend
the *Actions* of Great *Princes*,
as it is for *another* to defame
them. I will not therefore
inlarge my *Speech* in the
praises of the present hap-
piness of *England*, or in
paying all the acknowledge-
ments, which are due to
our *Sovereign*, for the bles-
sings of His *Reign*. That is

a Subject fitter for a more elaborate Volum, then a single Letter, and for a far more elegant Pen then mine. I will onely here shew the Vanity of our *Historiographers* groundless suggestions. And as an Introduction to what he says, concerning the *Political* condition of this *Nation*, I will first observe how he deals with some others of the cheif *Crown'd Heads* in *Europe*. You will perhaps, Sir, be very hardly induc'd to believe, that he can be guilty

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 ty of disrespect to *Monarchy*;
 or *Sovereign Princes*, when
 you behold him so Panegy-
 rically given towards that
 Government, as to take the
 pains, to go five or six thou-
 sand miles, to find out a
 Race of *Kings* to commend.
 For he here speaks very zea-
 lously in praise of the most
 vertuous, and most religious
Kings of China. This, Sir, I
 cannot but applaud in him;
 and to shew how much this
 one testimony of his good
 manners has wrought with
 me, I will not be harsh up-
 on

P. 117,
 118.

on him in this place. I
will not call in question the
credit of his Intelligence
from the farthest East, which
you see is so false, about a
Country, that lies only *seven*
Leagues distant from his
own. Nay, I will not so
much as inquire whether e-
ver he met with any *Chinese*
Madam Fiennes to give him P.118.
this Information. I will
graunt, that the *Kings* of
China have been great Men-
ders of Bridges, and Planters
of Orchards. But I will on-
ly now softly put him in
mind

mind, that while his Pen did overflow with sweet words, upon the *Kings of China*, he has handled the *Kings of Sweden and Denmark* more cruelly, then *Diomysius* the Tyrant would have done, when he was a *King*, much less when he was a *Schole-Master*.

P. 116. Of the two last *Kings of Sweden* he affirms, that *their Glory is almost wholly vanish'd: and that all moderate men must needs read the Desolations, which they caus'd with Horror.* You see, Sir, what an excellent

lent occasion he has here
given me of Triumphant
over him. You know very
well, how many great, and
irresistible arguments, this
matter might suggest to me:
what might not be said of
that *Victorious Nation*? how
copious might I be in ex-
tolling the indefatigable In-
dustry, the Conduct, the
Good Fortune, the Gene-
rosity of those *Kings*? What
Passions might here be
rais'd, in appealing to all
Mankind, and in aggrava-
ting the common misery of
all

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
all Great Commanders of
Armies, if it shall be per-
mitted to every small Pam-
phleteer to invade their
Lives, and to arraign their
Ashes, when he pleases?
But there is no need of go-
ing so powerfully to work,
or of employing against him
any of the Lofty, and Tra-
gical Forces of Eloquence.
It will suffice, if I recall to
his Memory, the Title in
which he boasts so much.
I will only ask him, how the
Historiographer of France can
assert the Wars of *Gustavus*
Adolphus

Adolphus to have been horrible Divastations, without casting some share of the Dishonor on the *Crown* of *France* it self? For (if we will believe all the *French* Writers of that time) there was a strict Confederacy, and a real Union of Interests, between those Two mighty Monarchs. I give him leave to use the Fame of the *Kings* of *Sweden* as he pleases. Let them in his account pass for Theives, and Oppressors. They deserve so to be us'd for they were mor-

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 tal Enemies to that belov'd
 Country, with whose Musick,
 and Latin, and Dancing, he
 was before so much ravish'd.
 I only bid him look back
 on the relation, which Lewis
 the First had to Lewis the
 Fourteenth, and then let him
 try to vindicate himself for
 overturning the Trophies
 of the Father, in the same
 Book, wherein he declares,
 that He travell'd abroad in a
 Waggon, to spread the glo-
 ry of the Son.

But the Fame of those
 dead Princes is plac'd above
 the

the reach of his Envy: let
us, Sir, consider how he be-
haves himself towards the
living. What a long Story
(or rather, as he himself
stiles it, *Romance*) has he
here made, of the life of
Uleselt the Dane, on which
he builds the justification of
his Crimes, and condemns the
King of Denmark's Justice?
And yet at the same time he
acknowledges, that He took
the whole Relation, only from the
Mouth of *Uleselt's own Wife*.
After this, have the *Kings of*
China any great reason to be
misappos L 3 proud

proud of this Mans good will? when he has here express'd no more Judgment, nor Integrity, then from the single and partial Information of a Woman; to acquit a man that had been hang'd in *Effigie* in Denmark, and has been since kill'd as he was pursued for High Treason?

Upon the sight of all this, Sir, I may well return securely Home, to examine his opinion of the Imperfections of our State. And here I must not forget to acquaint

acquaint you, that he is not all over Satyrical; But in several places he sprinkles some few kind words to our advantage. Yet his Commendations are so directly contrary to his reproaches; that instead of reconciling me to him, they rather supply me with new arguments against him. And who can desire an easier Adversary to deal with, then such a one, who, when he speaks against us, opposes evident Truth, when he speaks for us, contradicts himself?

This Inconsistence of his
 own mind with it self, is ap-
 parent in this *Political* part
 of his *Relation*, which now
 comes under my Censure :
 He confesses, *Our King to be*
 P. 123. *one of the best Princes in the*
World : He declares, that
His Majesty us'd him with all
imaginable sweetness, and that
 P. 120. *by the Charms of His Discourse,*
he sent him away as well pleas'd,
as if he had loaded him with
his Presents. I intreat you
 now, Sir, to recollect, how
 this, and that which follows
 hangs together.

First,

First, He suggests, that perhaps there was not so much pretence for the people to rebel in the late Kings time, as there is at this present. In the reply which I shall make to this Passage, I cannot, Sir, confine my self to the bare limits of a satisfactory Answer: but I must permit my Zeal for the Prosperity of our Country, to break forth into Expressions of Joy, and Gratitude. It is fit that all the World should know, that as our *King* was restor'd with the most miraculous

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
culous submission of minds,
and interests, that ever any
History can shew: as he was
establish'd on the Throne of
his *Ancestors*, while there
were two mighty Armies on
Foot, that had fought against
him and his *Father*: so there
can be no difficulty in con-
tinuing this quiet, now he
has all the power of the Na-
tion in his hands, and now
his Enemies are scattered,
and disarm'd (if yet he
can be thought to have any
real Enemies, after so ma-
ny Heroick Testimonies of
his

his Mercy) The condition of
all his affairs abroad is in
such a posture, in respect of
his Neighbors, that he is as
far from being lyable to re-
ceive Injuries unreveng'd,
as he is averse in his own
disposition from doing
wrongs unprovok'd. And
the small dissentions that
still remain on some of his
Subjects minds at home, are
so far from hazarding the
safety, that they will rather
make for the Honor of his
Reign. For by his renew'd
and generous indeavors to-
wards

wards the composing of these differences, there will arise for him a continued succession of Peaceful Triumphs, of which the occasions had been wanting to him, if he had found us all of one mind. And many such Victories as these, we may justly preface to our Sovereigns future Government. The Forces which he employs against those few that are still contumacious, which are those of Affability, and Forgiveness, are impossible to be resisted.

absw

Who

Who ever contends with his Adversaries with those weapons, he has not only his own Virtues, but theirs on his side. And as these are the surest Conquests, so they are of the greatest renown. In the Triumphs of Warr, his Souldiers, his Commanders, and even Fortune itself, would come in for a share in the Fame: But those which are obtain'd by pity, and by pardoning, have no Partners in the honor, but are wholly to be attributed to the *King* himself.

But

But for a proof of our calm and well-secur'd condition, I appeal from this Triflers Conjectures, to the *Parliament* it self, which is the true Representative of the Affections of the whole Kingdom. If he would have been willing to refer the matter to their decision, he might have found all things so free from any likelihood of new disturbances, that they have been still as inclin'd to be severe against the *Kings* ill-willers, as he himself has been to be gentle :

gentle: and as sollicitous to guard his *Royal Person*, with their lives and fortunes, as he has been carefull, that he might need no other defence, but his own *goodness*.

Yet since he is resolv'd not to stand to the determination of that great *Assembly*, which he modestly terms an *extravagant Body*, let us see what reports he has pick'd up amongst the malcontents of the *Vulgar*: He says, that *they* every where complain of the neglect of the
of *interest*

P. 130.

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
interest of Trade, of the mis-
spending of the Treasure, of
the oppressions of the Court,
and of the decrease of our
glory at Sea.*

P. 130. All this, Sir, he professes
to take from the murmurs of
the multitude. And if they
are guilty of such discour-
ses, more than the Commu-
nalty of other Countries,
they justly deserve the Ti-
tles that he gives them, of a
suspicious, a sullen, an insolent,
and an envious Generation.
But then, Sir, if the mean
and ignorant people ought

so

so much to be condemn'd
for upbraiding their God
vernors, though they only
do it in private, when they
are heated with drink, and
under the protection of a
cloud of Tobacco smoke. what
punishment does that Hig
storian deserve, who thought
good to collect their dis
contents, and to make him
self worse then the Au
thors of them, by being the
first that reports them in
this publick way? What
credit could he expect to
get, by repeating these low
doings

M

scan-

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 scandalls, when it was dishonourable for him only to confess, that he came into such places, and companies, where he might over-hear them? This Reprehension, Sir, he ought to have undergone, if all this that he relates had been true: But if we take it in pieces, we shall find that he libells the very Suburbs, and that his ink is black enough to represent the worst slanders of the Rabble, in darker colours than their own.
 As for the repinings
 which

which he heard concerning
the diminution of Trade. You
know, Sir, that it is the
publique, and the cheerfull
voice of all Englishmen, that
are engag'd in Traffick, that
there have been farr more
incouragements for Mer-
chants, and more vigorous
attempts for the advance-
ment of Commerce, within
these four years and half,
then in many ages before.
I might for a proof of this
allege the Royal Council, that
is particularly set up for
that purpose. I might in

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 stance in the increase of the
 Customs, which from thir-
 ty or forty thousand pounds
 in the latter end of Queen
Elizabeth's Reign, do now
 amount to almost four
 hundred thousand a year.
 I might urge all the *Procla-*
mations for the prohibiting
 of foreign Manufactures,
 and for the improvement of
 our own: I might reckon
 up the many new *Statutes*
 for the repairing of *Har-*
vers, the mending of *High-*
ways, and the cutting of *Ri-*
vers: But it is enough only
 to

to mention the Institution
of the *Royal Fishing*, and
the *Royal Company*: In both
which our *King* has prof-
perously begun a *Designe*,
which will infallibly make
the *English* the Masters of
the Trade of the world;
and that is the bringing in
of our *Gentry*, and *Nobility*,
to contribute towards it.
When this shall be brought
about, not all the little
Crafts of the *Hollanders*,
(which he magnifies so
much) will serve their turn:
But the *English* will outgo
M 3 them

P. 151,

152,

153.

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 them in Industry, and Stock,
 as much as they do already
 in Shoars, in Ports, in Ships,
 in Valour, in Vertue. This,
 Sir, we shall undoubtedly
 live to see accomplish'd, see-
 ing the Gentlemen of Eng-
 land have so great an Ex-
 ample before them; of a
 King, who does not only
 make the Arts of Com-
 merce and Navigation his
 business, and his interest,
 but his very delight and re-
 creation.

What he says of our
Treasure, is most impudent-
 ly

ly objected against that Prince, who has retrench'd himself in those expences which his Predecessors maintain'd, when the Revenue of the Crown was far less. And he chose a very unseasonable time, to pro- P.132.
claim, that the Blood-suckers of the Court devour the people, when those Blood-suckers have parted with their very Food, and the ancient Dues of their Offices, to lessen the charge of the Publique. But his loudest outcrie concerns the loss

babub

M 4 of

P. 130. *of our Dominion at Sea.* And

here he most invidiously compares the times of the Rump, with our present Naval Power.

First of all, he might have understood, that the Fleets which were then set forth against the Dutch did mainly consist of the late Kings Ships; and also that the whole Estates of the Crown, the Clergy, most of the Nobility, and Gentry, and indeed well nigh of the whole Nation were then at the Usurpers disposal. From hence he might have concluded,

cluded, that even the Glory of their Victories is not so much to be given to the Riches and Interest of *Scott*, *Hasilrig*, or *Vane*, as to the Treasures of the *King*, and the *Royal Party*. But besides this, Sir, What will he be able to answer me, when I shall tell him, that our *King* has made our Sea-provisions far stronger then ever they were in any Age or Countrey before; and that too only by the help of a Revenue bounded by Law, and limited to the
strict

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
strict Rules of Justice? of
the truth of this, he might
speedily have been con-
vinc't, if he had visited any
one of our Royal Stores, in-
stead of describing Smith-
field, Bedford Garden, the
Conduits of London, More-
fields, Hatfield Fishponds, and
St Catharines College in Ox-
ford. Never was there a
greater abundance of Ma-
terialls in readines! Ne-
ver more skillfull Builders!
Never more formidable
Preparations! Never more
expert Seamen! Never
more

more valiant Commanders!
 and, in one word to perfect
 all, never a *Braver Admiral*!
 An *Admiral* of whose un-
 daunted courage, unwearied
 diligence, and fortunate
 Conduct, all the Nations
 round about us have be-
 held so many unquestiona-
 ble proofs, even from the
 very first years of his
 youth. And if I thought
 that all the men of Honor,
 wherewith *France* now a-
 bounds, were not yet satis-
 fied how little *Monsieur de*
Sorbiere deserves to be *Histo-*
riographer

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
Biographe Royal, I would de-

fire no other instance to
 prove it, then only this;
 that when he declares he
 came into *England*, to con-

Præf.

tent his curiosity, to see all
 the rare things, and men a-
 mongst us, yet he scarce
 mentions the *Duke of York*.

I will admit that hither-
 to he has only recited the
 extravagancies of the Rab-
 ble; let us now, Sir, come
 to that place, wherein he
 has chiefly exercised the
 profoundness of his skill,
 his own speculations, on the

defects

defects of our Monarchy, and
the Factions of our Court.
And that you may know
how conversant he has been
in all intrigues of State, as
well as those of the Muses,
I will give you his positive
determination of one of
the gravest points of Policy
that ever was debated at a
Council Table; and it shall
be in his own words, to his
intimate Friend *Monsieur de*
Vaubrun. To you *Monsieur* P.116,
de Vaubrun (says he) being 117.
my Bosome Friend, a man that
esteems me much, and one
whom

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 whom I honour infinitely, being
 also a Gentleman, that loves
 justice, as well as fighting; I
 will reveal the bottom of my
 heart, and tell you the most
 secret of all my thoughts.
 What weighty matter does
 he introduce with this so-
 lemne Preface? He com-
 plains that the learned men
 of the English are not enough
 communicative. Certainly
 we shall find him of a bet-
 ter temper: Not doubt he
 will now unfold some new
 Principle of Policy, and of
 the Laws of Humane Socie-
 ty,

ty, which he has discover'd,
that is not yet ripe for the
publique, and only fit to be
committed to the trust of a
particular confident. It
proves so indeed! The Ora-
cle w^{ch} he immediately pro-
nounces, is this: *That Man* P. 171.

*was not made by Nature to
fight with Man, but rather to
injoy the Benefits of peace;
that God has not given us
horns, hoofs, or claws; but*

Os homini sublime dedit.

This, Sir, is all the migh-
ty Mystery, of which he
discharges his breast with
sigh.

so

176 *Observations on Mr. Sorbier's*
so much Ceremony. And
in which is he now more
ridiculous, his *History*, or
his *Policy*? His *History*, in
speaking so many false re-
proaches aloud; his *Policy*,
in whispering such trifles
with so much caution. I
beseech you, Sir, let us
allow him the reputation of
this new invention intire.
Though he did not think fit
to name the famous Author
of the *Lunar Globe*, which
he saw in the *Kings Closet*:
Yet I intend to be juster to
him: And I will propose
of this

this *Epitaph* to be grav'd
on his Tomb ; *Hic jacet*
primus Author hujus senten-
tiae ; Pax Bello Potior.

This, Sir, is one tryal of
his *Contemplative*, you shall
have more of his *Practical*
Politicks. He has ventur'd
to declare the *Queen Mothers*
thoughts, about her most
private, and *Domestick*
concernments; which were
so near to her, that it was
impossible for a thousand
Madame Fiennes, to have
given him any instruction
about them. And in this

been N he

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 he had no reverence for
 the greatest, and the most
 vertuous *Princess* of this
 Age, for the *Mother* of our
King, nor for the *Daughter*
 of *Henry the Great*. He has
 made a disadvantageous
 Character on my *Lord*

P. 128. *St. Albans* to the *French Na-*
tion, where he was before
 so well known, and where
 he liv'd long in so much
 honour. He has profum'd
 on the *King* himself: he

P. 129. sawcily conjectures at the
 reasons of the choice of
 his *Ministers*, as if he had
 been

been admitted into his Royal
Breast as well as his Cabinet.

He says, that His Majesty is P. 121.

forc'd to be familiar with his
Nobility, and Gentry, to keep
their esteem and good will: and
so he endeavours to bring
down those Vertues, of
which he himself receiv'd
so many proofs, to be only
works of necessity. But
seeing he confesses this ge-
nerous affability to be able
to hinder the Kings Sub-
jects from rebellion, he
thinks it might have pre-
vail'd on a mean stranger,

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
to spare the Reputation of
his Kingdoms. He infi-
P. 132. nuates, that the true Sovereign
Power amongst us resides in
the People. Which is a Do-
ctrine that was scarce ever
heard of in England till the
year Forty eight, and va-
nish'd in Sixty. He af-
P. 148. firms, that there is a mixture
of all sorts of Government in
the composition of our State,
notwithstanding that we
have so many Acts of Par-
liament that devolve the
whole power on the Crown.
His long discourse of the
Privi-

Privileges of the House of Commons, and the degrees of their increase, is nothing, but a wild Whimsy of his own Brain. There is no mention in any English Historian, that Edward the first, was the King that first call'd Knights, and Burgesses, to sit in Parliament: or that when they were so conven'd, he only us'd their Counsel, and rejected those of the Nobility and Gentry. And yet upon these imaginary faults, of which he supposes Edward the first Guilty, he here takes him in-

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P. 141, 142, 143.
Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
to his discipline, reads to him
a tedious Lecture of the Arts
of Government, and treats
the Wisest and most Victori-
ous Prince of Christendom in
that time, as imperiously as
if he had been a Cadet of the
House of Saxe. But I am
weary, Sir, of taking notice
of such errors, which are
only mistakes in History or
Chronology. At least I need
not go three hundred years
back for them, seeing he is
so much besides the Truth,
in his account of the most
Renown'd action in this
Age:

Age : the Kings Return :
Which he wholly attributes to
the Presbyterians. All the

P. 58.

circumstances of that glorious Restoration are still, Sir, fresh in our memories : the very noyse of those Triumphs, w^{ch} fill'd the whole World with admiration, seems to be yet scarce out of our Ears. And shall we suffer him to fix all the honour of that Immortal Work on a private Sect ? Whereas it was accomplish'd by the immediate favour of divine Providence, by the

N 4

Wisdom

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
Wisdom of a *Victorious General*, by the perpetual and
immoveable Fidelity of the
Royal Party, by the Hands,
the Wishes, the Tongues,
and the united Desires of
three Kingdoms. 'Tis true
indeed, the *Presbyterians* went
along with the mighty Tor-
rent; But the whole course
of this happy Violence is
not therefore to be attribu-
ted to them. You see, Sir,
I am unawares fallen into a
Metaphor, which does best
resemble that Enterprize.
It was in that, as in a sud-
den

den Land-Flood, which, as it comes down, carries with it Trees, and Stones, and Houses, and all that it meets in the way. And even all these which lay before quiet, nay which resisted the first Waters while they were weak, do add to the impetuosity of the Current, when it is going. But we must not therefore say that the Flood it self took its rise from thence: seeing it was, in truth, caus'd by Rain coming down from Heaven, and by Streams flowing in from

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 from every part of the
 Country. This allusion,
 Sir, I think does represent
 the whole matter to your
 mind. If it does not, how-
 ever I have return'd *Monse-*
eur de Sorbiere, an ill Simili-
 tude for one of his, where
 P. 47. *he compares the Protestants to*
the Ottoman Empire: which
 is so much an *Intrigue of the*
Muses, that I will challenge
 all the Wits of *England*,
 and *France*, to interpret it.
 But if the *Covenanters* shall
 still be fond of this praise,
 which he here allows them,
 let

let them remember of how little value his *Panegyricks* are, seeing he calls *Ulfelt* a *Heroe*: and if they will still maintain that they restor'd the *King*, let them take heed lest some mischievous *Royallist* should tell them, that in one sence they did indeed occasion the *Kings* Restoration. But in the same that *Quintus Maximus* meant after he had recover'd *Tarentum*: who gave this answer to another *Roman* that had lost that place before, and yet boasted
what

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's

what share he had in regaining it. 'Tis true (says he) it was by your means indeed ; *Nam nisi tu perdidisses Tarentum, ego nunquam recuperassem.*

But the chief Secret into which he has pierc'd, is the late Controversie between my Lord Chancellor, and the Earl of Bristol. What subtle conclusions does he draw from it ? what prophetical visions does he here reveal, concerning the terrible disturbances, that shall arise to our Government,

ment, many ages hence, from
an accident, which was at
an end, before he got back
to *Paris*? What a formal
division has he made of the
whole Nation? *Homer* him-
self is not so punctual in
marshalling the forces of
the *Greeks*, and the *Trojans*:
nor is there lesse fiction in
this *History*, then in his *Poe-*
try. On the *Earl of Bri-*
stols quarter, he places the dis-
contented against the Court,
the *City of London*, the *Pres-*
byterians that brought in the
King, the *House of Lords*, in a
great,

P. 126,
127.

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 great, and a strong party of the
 House of Commons, which he
 says is the true Body of that
 extravagant Body the Parliam-
 ent. An Army numerous
 and formidable. On the
 Lord Chancellor's side, he ranks
 the Royal Family, the Bishops,
 Deans, and Chapters, all the
 Nobility, all the Rich Mer-
 chants, and Burgeses, (though
 he had before bestow'd the House
 of Lords, and the City of Lon-
 don on the Earl of Bristol.)
 Thus he has drawn the
 whole Kingdome into Bat-
 talia. It is but now perform-
 ing

ming his office of *Trumpeter*, and a dreadful Battle will no doubt ensue. But how comes it to pass that all these Rumors of mighty wars did vanish on the sudden? Was it because they were *English Cowards*, P. 21. and dar'd not fight? Alas, Sir, all this was only a fine story of encounters in the Air, whereof there was no other foundation then in the wild fancies of his own making. And may we not give that Character of our *Historian*, which he does of
one

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 one of the Noble Comba-
 P.126. tants, that his great Wit has
 inclin'd him to be Romantick?
 Is not this the true trick of
 a Romancer, to bring in ma-
 ny Princes fighting together
 in a wood, without giving
 any account how they came
 thither?

But the danger is over.
 All is quiet again; and long
 may it so keep. For to
 speak t'ye, Sir, from the bot-
 tome of Monsieur de Sorbier's
 heart, Peace is better then
 Warr. Well then. He
 P.129. grants that the Victory did a
 little

little incline to my Lord Chancellor's Party : yet he has shewn the bravery of his own mind, by defying the Conquerour. And here, Sir, I confess he has driven me upon one of the tenderest points in the world ; which is the speaking concerning the fame of a great Man, while he is living. But I entreat you to lay before your eyes the many powerfull arguments, by which I am mov'd at least to give a true testimony, though not a long elogie, concerning him.

O

My

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
My Lord Chancellor is a man
through whose hands the
greatest part of all the pub-
lique and private businesses
of our Countrey do pass.
And it will be most disho-
nourable for us, to suffer
his name to be revil'd in
this manner, while he is
scarce at leisure to look to
its defence himself, by rea-
son of his eternal Labors
for the publique Justice and
Safety. And besides this,
Sir, I can, for my own par-
ticular, allege another mo-
tive of nearer concernment.

For

For I am to consider my self, as a Member of the Royal Society, and the University of Oxford, and the Earl of Clarendon, as Protector of one them, and Chancellor of the other.

These, Sir, are some of his true Titles, however Monsieur de Sorbiers is pleas'd to pass them over, and give him worse in their stead. First of all, he says that he is a Presbyterian. At P. 125. this ridiculous scandall, I assure you, Sir, I am not much griev'd. I was (to

P. 127.

tell you true) in a terrible
 affright, when I read what
 he reports, that almost all
 the City of London are Pres-
 byterians. But now this
 passage has compos'd my
 mind again: For it is like
 to be a very exact compu-
 tation, which He has made
 of that Sect, when the first
 man that he names for a
 Presbyterian, is my Lord Chan-
 cellor. He next tells us,
 that he is a man of the Law;
 a shamefull disgrace: the
 Lord Chancellor of England,
 whose Office it is to govern
 and

and moderate the Law, is a Lawyer. As if I should endeavour to lessen the credit of *Monsieur de Vaubrun*, and prove him unfit to be Governor of *Philippe Ville*, and Colonel of *Light-horse*; by objecting that he is a Soldier; or of *Monsieur de Sorbierre* to be *Historiographer Royal*, by saying that he is skill'd in *Historie*. But he is a Lawyer, and Statesman at once. Can this be any more disparagement to him, then it is to the whole Body of Lawyers in *France*, who

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
in all times have manag'd
the greatest Employments
of that State? Could he not
have recollected, before he
writ this, that *Monsieur de*
Segnier, the present Chan-
cellor of France, is a Gentle-
man of the Long Robe? You
see, Sir, what a good Saty-
rist we have here got, who
would undertake to abuse
an *English Statesman* with
such an argument, which
must at the same time re-
flect as much upon his own
Countreymen, his chief
Friends, and Patrons, to
whom

whom he directs his Speech.
But the worst is still behind.
My Lord Chancellor is utterly P. 125.
ignorant of the Belles Lettres.
This accusation is as decent
as all the former. He dis-
likes our Carriers, for not be-
ing Courtly; our Souldiers, for
not putting off their Hatts well;
our Bishops, for their Gravity;
and our States-men, for not be-
ing Grammarians, and Cri-
ticks. But I will prove to
him, by his own confession,
that *My Lord Chancellor* de-
serves not this reprehensi-
on, and that he is a man
skillful

O 4

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
skillful in all *Polite Learn-*
ing. He himself allows him
P.126. to be a great *Politician*, and
a very *Eloquent Man*. I have
obtain'd, Sir, what I desir'd.
You see how easy it is to
justify the *Earl of Claren-*
don, seeing the very man,
that vilifies him, does at the
same time gainsay himself,
and suggest to me his pray-
ses, without my interposing
any word in his commenda-
tion. If we should graunt,
that a man may chance to
be a great dealer in *Politicks*,
without understanding any
thing

thing else (which yet nothing but *Monsieur de Sorbiere's* own example in this place, can perswade us to be possible) yet how can he be thought to attain to a perfect Eloquence without any skill in the Civil Arts? Where now is his *Polite Learning*? whence did he fetch this Idea of Eloquence? Let him produce his Notes out of *Aristotle, Tully, Quintilian, Seneca*, or any of the *Rhetoricians* of Antiquity; And then let him tell me, whether they do not all with one voice consent

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
consent, that an Orator must
of necessity be acquainted
with all sorts of useful know-
ledg? But because he is so
free in his reproof of my
*Lord Chancellors unskillful-
ness in the Belles Lettres?* I
pray, Sir, what signs has
this great *Aristarchus* him-
self given, of his own pro-
ficiency in them? Where
do we find in him any foot-
steps of the True Spirit of
the *Grecian* or *Roman* Wit?
What reason have we to en-
vy his judgment in the *Classi-
fical Authors*, when all the
concurrent proof

proof that he has given in this Book, of his being conversant in them, are only three or four pedantical Quotations, of which the chief is,

Os Homini sublime dedit?

Thus far, Sir, in reply to him. But more is to be added concerning the Honourable Person, of whom he speaks in such mean terms. My Lord Chancellor is a Gentleman of a very antient Family, of which Mr Camden makes mention in his *Britannia*.

His

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
His Education and first
years were spent in a strict
familiarity with many of
the most Famous Men, not
only of that Age, but per-
haps of any other: of whom
(to pass by some Reverend
and Learned Church-men
that are living) it is enough
to name Mr. Chillingworth,
and the Lord Falkland.
His first application to the
Affairs of his Countrey,
was in a time wherein ex-
traordinary fidelity and
sufficiency were requir'd.
His Services to the late
King

King were requited by the committing of many eminent *Businesses* to his management; and by a very high share in his *Majesties* Favour; of which there are indelible proofs in many places of that *Excellent Prince's Letters*. Under him he was *Chancellor* of the *Exchequer*, *Privy Counsellor*, and design'd *Secretary of State*. Since that time he was *Extraordinary Ambassador into Spain*, and attended his present *Master* in his *Misfortunes*, which was undoubtedly

Observations on Mr. Serbier's
doubtedly the most glorious
Scene of Honour in the
world. By these several
degrees of Great Employ-
ments, he ascended to that
illustrious Station which he
now enjoys. And as for
the Qualifications of his
Minde, if it be needfull to
adde any thing to the Votes
of the Royal Society, and the
University of Oxford, I will
declare, that of all the men
of great worth, who have
possess'd that High Office,
since Learning and the Ci-
vill Arts came amongst us,
there

there was never any man
that has so much resem-
bled Sir *Thomas More*, and
the Lord *Bacon*, in their se-
veral Excellencies, as the
Earl of Clarendon.

There might, Sir, much
more be answer'd against all
his false Insinuations, con-
cerning the *Political Condi-*
tion of England. But I have
seen a Book of *Monfieur de*
Sorbiere's Discourses and Let-
ters, whereof many were
written to the late *Cardinal*
Mazarini; and they are so
full of gross flatteries, that
they

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
they have wholly turn'd my
stomach, from speaking any
more of *State Affairs*: So
that in truth, in the present
humour into which the rea-
ding of them has put me,
I had much rather offend
on the other extream, by an
unjust silence, then by im-
pertinent praises of the
English Government. I will
therefore conclude this
whole matter, as I began it,
by reflecting on a Passage
of his own, in the story of
Ulfelt; wherein he has gi-
ven undeniable testimony,
that

that he is wholly ignorant of the Rights of Princes, the true Policy, and the Law of Nations. He affirms, that *Uleselt fled into Sweden, that he became thereby effectually a Traytor, that he was the cause of the Swedes last invasion into Denmark, by advising Carolus Gustavus to turn his Army, from the Poles, against Coppenhagen.* These are his own words. And what more apparent Crime could there be then this, which had like to have drawn after it the utter Ru-

P

ine

210 *Observations on Mr. Sorbier's*
P. 186. *ine of that Kingdome? And*
yet immediately after he
professes, that he makes no
doubt, but the *Illustrious He-*
roes, Uleselt, and his Wife, will
live to see their great merits
acknowledg'd, and to enjoy in
peace the applauses that are
due to them for their fidelity to
their King, and their zeal for
the *Fundamental Laws* of
their *Countrey*.

Fref. But this, Sir, I suppose,
is one of those which he
himself calls the *Besueues*
of his *stile*: which though
(as he says) *Monsieur de Vau-*
brun

brun uses to forgive, yet the *King of France* did not think fit to pass by.

This is the Idea that he has drawn of the *Manners*, the *Religion*, and the *Government* of the *English*. But these are not the subjects which he principally regards : such matters as these, he confesses, that he only uses to touch upon, as they *Pres.* come in his way. I will now therefore, Sir, consider his commerce with the chief heads *Ep. De.* of *Parnassus*, and his intrigues of the *Muses*; that is

Observations on Mr. Serbier's
(to speak plain sence, without the help of *Apollo*) I will examine some particulars in the account that he gives of the state of knowledge amongst us: This is the argument in which he triumphs: This is a Business in whose promotion he has spent the whole course of his life. And that he may appear not to have bestow'd all his labour in vain, I will allow, that he ought to be numbred amongst the men of Learning; Provided that he be content with that defi-

definition w^{ch} he himself has laid down of Learned men in general ; For he says, that it is the good custome of such men, to render themselves ridiculous by their malignity, and their Billings-gate-language. P. 96.
In conformity to this description, besides what is already past, let us now behold what he reports of Dr. Wallis, Dr. Willis, Mr. Hobbs, the Royal Society, the English Stage, their Eloquence, their Language, and their Authors.

Dr. Wallis be condemns for his ill usage of Mr. Hobbs.

P 3

in

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
in the Mathematical Contre-
versies that have pass'd be-
tween them.* I will not en-
deavour to make any de-
fence for this *knowing and
acute Professor*, as he grants
him to be. But yet let me
say, that if *Monfieur de Sor-
bierre* himself being the Judge,
so much modesty of lan-
guage ought to be pre-
serv'd, even in the conten-
tions of Wit and Argument,
when Passion is apt to over-
bear the most temperate
Minds; then certainly he
himself ought to have been
careful

careful of keeping to the same rule, in an *Historical Relation*, wherein he had no adversary to put him into a heat, and nothing but his own natural peevishness to exasperate his Anger. Dr. Wallis Entertain'd him at his house, made him partake of his Experiment upon a dumb Man, and behold the Model of a flat Floor, which (he says) did raise admiration in Mr. Hobbs himself. And for all this, he might have deserv'd at least, to have been pass'd by in silence. But he had

P. 94,
95.

216 *Observations on Mr. Sorbier's*
a good subject to be merry
with, for want of *Polish Mu-*
sick, and he must needs
give the receipt of making
P. 100. an *University Cap*. Take a
Portefucille: cover it with
black Cloth: fix a tuft of *Silk*
upon it: and sew it to a *Calot*:
and you have a perfect four
corner'd *Scholastical Bonnet*.
Do you not now wonder,
Sir, why he did not call
himself *Taylor*, as well as
Trumpeter, to the *Common-*
wealth of Learning? What
kind of good breeding is
this? How can he, after this
object

object to Dr. Wallis, that he
has little in him of the Gallant
Man? Whose behavior has
the strongest scent, and wants
most to be purify'd by the air of
the Court? The Geometrician
receives him kindly at his
Table: The Historiographer
Laughs at the habit of his Host.
While he allows him extra-
ordinary abilities, that are
proper to himself, he abuses
him for that, which is com-
mon with him to the Sorbo-
nists in France, and almost all
the Universities and Clergy-
men in Christendom.

P. 100.

P. 101.

He

P. 94.

.101.

P. 94.

He declares that he profited very little by Dr. Willis's company, because he could not understand his Latin. And

upon this he objects, that all the English pronounce that Language with such an odd Tone, as renders it almost as difficult to strangers, as our own Tongue. I might here, Sir, allege in defence of our pronuntiation, that We do as all our neighbors besides: We speak the antient *Latin*, after the same way that we pronounce our Mother Tongue, so the *Germans* do,

so

to the *Italians*, to the *French*.

But the obscurity of our Speech being not only his complaint, but of many other Foreigners, I will not stand long in its justification. There are so many peculiar flanders of greater concernment, w^{ch} he alone has fix'd upon us, that I will not regard this small objection, wherein there may be others, that agree with him. But however, Sir, from hence I may observe, that it was therefore impossible for him to take a right measure
of

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
of the *English Manners*, and
Disposition, seeing he was in-
capable of holding any sort
of correspondence with us.
He was not in a condition
of being inform'd by our
Gentry, our Farmers, or our
Tradesmen, because he under-
stood no *English* : nor by
our Schollars, our Physitians,
our Divines, our Mathemati-
cians, because he professes,
that our *Latin* was unintelli-
gible to him.

But to return, Sir, to Dr.
Willis : I am able to give
another Reason, why Mon-
sieur

sieur de Sorbierre did profit so little by his Conversation. The substance of it was reported to me from *Dr. Willis* his own Mouth. And I doubt not, but the remarkable sincerity, and integrity, which that excellent Man preserves in all his Writings, would make this character of the other's vanity to be believ'd, though we had not so many other proofs of it. When *Monsieur de Sorbierre* came first to visit him; the Doctor esteem'd him to be a man of some real and solid knowledg

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
knowledg: the great names
of *Des Cartes*, and *Mersennas*,
which he hath frequently
in his Mouth, might have
perswaded him as much:
he began to treat him accor-
dingly: he enter'd into di-
scourse with him, about
some parts of *Chymistry*, and
Physick, in which he desir'd
his opinion. The Profes-
sor deliver'd it franckly,
and plainly, as it became a
Philosopher, without de-
ceipt or ornament. But
expecting that he would
have continued the Argu-
ment,

ment, with some material Objection, he soon found that the Traveller understood nothing of the whole matter: but answer'd him, as little to the purpose, as if he had only said *Pax Bello Potior*. He try'd him in other subjects. But nothing could he get of him, except only some few Philosophical terms, and ends of Poetry, as *In puris naturalibus Ex aquo & Bono con-
tundantur grosso modo. Homo
est animal credulum & men-
dax; and Os homini.* Upon
this

P.206.

P.188.

- this he gave him over, as he would have done a yongtraveller of twenty years old, & left him to reckon the College
- P.102. *Quadrangles, to tell the Pillars in Saint John's Cloysters,*
- P.103. *to commend their Grove, to measure King Harry's Sword,*
- P.105. *to describe Saint Catherines College (if there be any such there,) to examine why one of*
- P.102. *the Colleges took its name from a Brazen Nose, to number the*
- P.103. *Books in the Bodleian Library, to consider why it was built in the form of an H. and to count*
- P.104, *how many Folios, and how ma-*
105.

my Quarters are above and below in every Shelf. These, Sir, he perceiv'd were fit for Subjects for Monsieur de Sorbiere to handle. And he has confirm'd this his Opinion of him to be true. For his long Tale of his Journey to Oxford, is made up of such childish contemplations: While he was speaking of that place, which for the beauty, and convenience of its buildings, for the vastness of its revenue, and above all, for the sobriety, the virtue, and

Q

the

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
the piety of its discipline,
is to be prefer'd before all
others that have been ever
dedicated to liberal Stu-
dies, in the past, or present
times.

But here, Sir, I confess I
have been a little too rigid
upon him. It was ill
done of me, to expect that
he should on the sudden
turn so unlike himself, as to
give a good account of our
University alone. I will not
therefore bestir my self a-
gainst him, for having omit-
ted the most memorable
things

things in Oxford. My quarrel to him now is upon another score. He has here committed a grosse oversight in his own way: For in this exact enumeration of all our fine Rarities, he has wholly pass'd by one famous Curiosity, which was of all others the most proper for such an *Historiographer*, or at least for such a *Trumpeter* to mention, and that is *Queens College Horn*.

From his new acquaintance, I proceed to his rudeness, towards the only

M

Q 2

man

P. 65.

man in England, to whom
he professes himself to have been
long familiar. Mr. Hobbs
was the chief man for whose
sake he came over, and he
speaks very many great things
in his commendation. He

P. 66.

praises his good humor, his ex-
cellent Wit, the vigor of his old
Age, and his long and diligent

P. 97.

search into Nature. After
this, Sir, you will perhaps
think that this Philosopher
is safe from his invectives.
But you will find it other-
wise, he commends him in-
deed for that, upon which

nam

s O

Mr.

Mr. Hobbs lays not so much stress, for his good Breeding: but he wounds him in the most dangerous place, his Philosophy, and his understanding. He very kindly reports of him, that *he is too* P. 97.
dogmatical in his Opinions. P. 99.
that he Writ against the Church of Rome, because he never had a right Idea of it, in his thoughts, and because he had only read the controversies on the Protestant side. How d'ye think, Sir, this will sound to Mr. Hobbs, who professes to have reduc'd all
Q 3 the

Observations on Mr. Soubier's
 the *Politicks* to demonstra-
 tions, when his *Translator*
 shall tell him, that he con-
 cluded against a *Church*,
 and a *Religion*, before he had
 heard one word that could
 be said in their defence?
 The Title of *Dogmatical*
 which he gives him, being
 propounded by a declar'd
Sceptick, was the worst fault
 that could be charg'd on a
Philosopher, and indeed
 it is the same, that he bestows
 on *Borri*, while he strives in a
 long Story, to render him to
 appear nothing but a foolish
 Charlatan.

From
 P. 177.
 to 199.

Charletan. But let him not
fear. I have no mind to
aggravate this injury to Mr.
Hobbs. It is the particular
manner of his passing this
judgment upon him, of
which I will take notice.
He tells the World that Mr.
Hobbs was censur'd for Dogma- P. 97.
tical, between his Majesty, and
himself, in his private discourse
with him. And is not Mon-
sieur de Sorbriere a very fit
man, to upbraid to Dr. Wal-
lis, his want of good manners:
when he himself is at once
rude to his antient Friend,

Q 4

and

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
and insolent to the King
himself, on inverting betraying
what he was pleas'd to
Whisper to him in his Cab-
inet.

But however, to comfort
Mr. Hobbs for this affront, I
dare assure him, that as for
Monsieur de Sorbier's part, he
understands not his Philo-
sophy. Of this I will give
an unanswerable testimony,
P. 97. and that is the resemblance
that he makes of him, to the
Lord Verulam. Between
whom there is no more like-
ness, then there was between
him and He

St. George and the Waggoner. P. 97,

He says that Mr. Hobbs was 98.

once his Ammanensis; that
from whence he has retain'd
very much of him: that he
has studied his manner of
turning things: that he
just expresse himself in that
way of Allegory, wherein the o-
ther excell'd: and that he is
in Truth a very remaine of my
Lord Bacon. This, Sir, is
his opinion: but how far
from being True, let any
man judg, that has but
tasted of their Writings. I
scarce know two men in the
World,

World, that have more different colors of Speech, then these two great Witts: The Lord *Bacon* short, allusive, and abounding with Metaphors: Mr. *Hobbs* round, close, sparing of similitudes: but ever extraordinary decent in them. The one's way of reasoning, proceeds on particulars, and pleasant images, only suggesting new ways of experimenting, without any pretence to the *Mathematicks*. The other's bold, resolv'd, settled upon general conclusions,

blow

sions, and in them, if we will believe his *Friend, Dogmatical.*

But it is the *Royal Society*, to which he is most favourable, and that he may shew him self a great Benefactor to their designe, *he has bestowed Gresham College upon them.* Whereas, you know, Sir, they only hold their present meetings there, by the permission of the Professors of the Foundation of Sir *Thomas Gresham*, to whom that house does belong. We are beholding
to

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
to him for this noble Boun-
ty. But perhaps the Citizens
of London, who are the over-
seers of Sir Thomas Gresham's
Will, may take it ill at his
hands, especially having
such just ground to quarrel
with him already: For he
said before, that they are al-
most all Presbyterians or Pha-
naticks.

He comes to describe
the Weekly assemblies of the
Royal Society: and he does
it in words becoming a
meeting of Natural Philo-
sophers. *The Usber carries*

a great Silver Mace before the President, Which is layd on the Cushion where he sits: they have a large Hall, and a handsom Anti-chamber: the place where they Assemble is Wainscotted: there is a long Table before the Chimney, seven or eight grey Chairs about it: some Benches behind, that are bare: the hindermost higher then the first: the President sits in a Chair with Arms: his back to the Chimney: holding a wooden Hammer in his hand, wherewith he sometimes knocks the Table to make silence.

Can

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's

Can you, Sir, indure to read
all this stuff with any pa-
tience? I suffer'd his Tittle
Tattle upon Rochester Bridg,
upon the *Eternal* greeness of
the *Fields of Kent*, upon the
Walls of Lincolns-Inn-Fields,
on the *Guild-Hall*, on the
Ranks of Trees in Morefields,
and many more such pretty
Philosophical Discourses:
But is not this a shameful
signe of his weaknss, that
he has insisted so long on
such mean circumstances,
while he was describing a
subject, that might have
yielded

yielded him so much noble
matter for his Pen? And
when the *Royal Society* it self
is so careful, that such ce-
remonies should be just no
more, then what are necessa-
ry to avoyd confusion?
What other Language
should he have us'd then
this, if he had been to in-
form the World of his own
Schole at Orange? Just so he
should have proceeded.
He should first have de-
clar'd, whether the Room
were Hung, or Wainscotted!
Next, whether the Master
fate

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 fate with his back towards
 the Window, or the Chim-
 ney: then how many Seats
 there were for the Boys to
 sit upon: at last he should
 have drawn himself in a
 majestick Chair, his *Ferula*
 in his hand, and the poor
 Scholars trembling for fear
 at every rap on the Table.
 But all this is still par-
 donable: he has been utterly
 mistaken in the report of
 their main design. There
 are two things, that they
 have most industriously a-
 voided, which he attributes
 to

to them! the one is a dividing
into parties, and Sects; and
the other, a reliance upon
Books, for their intelligence of
Nature. He first says, that
they are not all guided by the
authority of Gassendus, or Des
Cartes; but that the Mathe-
maticians are for Des Cartes,
and the Men of General Lear-
ning for Gassendus. Where-
as neither of these two
Men bear any sway amongst
them: they are never nam'd
there as Dictators over
men's Reasons; nor is
there any extraordinary pe-
re-ference

8.9
.88
P. 92:

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
ference to their judgments.

P. 87,
88.

He also asserts that the Royal Society has appointed Lodgings, and establiſh'd four thousand Livres a year, upon two Professors, who shall read to them out of Authors, and that they have begun a Library for that purpose. Whereas they have as yet no Library, but only a Repository for their Instruments, and Rarities: they never intend a Professorian Philosophy, but declare against it: with Books they meddle not farther, then to see what Experiments

ments have been try'd before: their Revenue they designe for Operators, and not for Lecturers.

I now pass over to his chief delight, the Belles Lettres of the English. He grants our Stage to be handsom, the Musick tolerable, better I suppose, P.167.

than that of the Polack Gentleman. But yet he says that our Poets laugh at the Rules of Time, and Place: P.167.

that all our Playes contain the Actions of Five and Twenty P.168.
years: that we Marry a Prince in the First Act, and bring in

Observations on Mr. Serbier's
his Son fighting in the Second,
and his Grand-child in the
Third. But here, Sir, he
 has committed a greater
 disorder of time, than that
 whereof he accuses our
 Stage: For he has con-
 founded the Reign of King
Charles the Second, with that
 of *Q. Elizabeth.* 'Tis true,
 about an hundred years
 ago, the *English Poets* were
 not very exact in such de-
 cencies: But no more then
 were the *Dramatists* of any
 other Countries. The *En-*
glish themselves did laugh
 away

away such absurdities as
soon as any, and for these
last *Fifty* years, our Stage
has been as Regular in those
Circumstances, as the best
in *Europe*. Seeing he thinks
fit to upbraid our present
Poets, with the errors of
which their predecessors
were guilty so long since:
I might as justly impute the
vile absurdities that are to
be found in *Amadis de Gaul*,
to *Monsieur de Corneille*, de
Scudery, de *Chapelaine*, de
Moliere, and the rest of the
famous Modern French Wits,

He next blames the *mean-
ness of the Humors which we
represent*. And here, because
he has thrust this occasion
upon me, I will venture to
make a short comparison
between the *French Drama-
tical Poetry*, and *ours*. I
doubt not, Sir, but I may
do this with the leave of that
witty Nation: For as long
as I do not presume to slan-
der their manners (from
which you see I have care-
fully forbore) I hope they
will allow me to examine
that which is but a matter

of Wit, and delight : I will not enter into open defiance of them, upon *Monsieur de Serbiere's* account, but I intreat them to permit me only to try a civill Turnament with them in his *War of Letters*. I will therefore make no scruple to maintain that the *English* Plays ought to be preferr'd before the *French*. And to prove this, I will not insist on an argument, which is plain to any observer, that the greatest part of their most excellent pieces have been taken

R 4

from

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 from the *Spaniard*: where
 as the *English* have for the
 most part trodden in new
 ways of Invention. From
 hence I will not draw much
 advantage: though it may
 serve to balance that which
 he afterwards I say of our
 Books, that they are generally
 P.169. *stoln out of other Authors.*
 But I will fetch the grounds
 of my persuasion, from the
 very nature, and use, of the
 Stage it self. It is beyond
 all dispute, that the true in-
 tention of such Represen-
 tations, is, to give to man-
 kind

kind a Picture of themselves;
and thereby to make Virtue
belov'd, Vice abhor'd,
and the little irregularities
of mens tempers, call'd hu-
mors, expos'd to laughter.
The Two first of these are
the proper subjects of *Tra-*
gedy, and *Trage-Comedy*. And
in these I will first try to
shew, why our way ought
to be preferr'd before
theirs. The *French*, for
the most part, take only
one, or two Great Men, and
chiefly insist on some one
remarkable accident of
their

their Story: To this end, they admit no more Persons, then will barely serve to adorn that: And they manage all in Rhythme, with long Speeches, almost in the way of Dialogues, in making high Ideas of Honor, and in speaking Noble things. The *English*, on the other side, make their chief Plot to consist of a greater variety of Actions, and besides the main design, add many other little contrivances. By this means, their Scenes are shorter, their

their Stage fuller, many more Persons of different Humors are introduc'd. And in carrying on of this, they generally do only confine themselves to blank Verse. This is the difference. And hence the *English* have these advantages. By the liberty of Prose, they render their Speech, and Pronuntiation, more natural, and are never put to make a contention between the Rhythm, and the Sence. By their underplots, they often change the minds of their

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
their Spectators: which is
a mighty Benefit, seeing one
of the greatest Arts of Wit
and persuation, is the right
ordering of Digressions.
By their full Stage, they
prevent men's being conti-
nually tyr'd with the same
Objects: and so they make
the Doctrine of the Scene to
be more lively, and divert-
ing, then the precepts of
Philosophers, or the grave
delight of Heroick Poetry:
which the *French Tragedies*
do resemble. Nor is it
sufficient to object against
this,

this, that it is undecent to thrust in men of mean condition, amongst the actions of *Princes*. For why should that misbecome the Stage, which is always found to be acted on the *True Theatre* of the World? There being no Court, which only consists of *Kings*, and *Queens*, and *Counsellors* of State. Upon these accounts, Sir, in my weak judgment, the *French Drama* ought to give place to the *English*, in the Tragical and lofty part of it. And now having obtained

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
tain'd this, I suppose they
will of their own accord
reſigne the other excellence,
and confeſs that we have
far exceeded them in the re-
presentation of different
Humors. The Truth is,
the *French* have alwaies
ſeem'd almoſt aſham'd of
the true *Comedy*: making it
not much more then the
ſubject of their *Farſes*:
whereas the *Engliſh* Stage
has ſo much abounded with
it, that perhaps there is
ſcarce any ſort of extrava-
gance of which the minds
of

of men are capable, but they have in some measure express'd. It is in *Comedies*, and not in *Solemn Histories*, that the *English* use to relate the *Speeches* of *Waggoners*, of *Fencers*, and of *Common Souldiers*. And this I dare assure *Monsieur de Sorbiere*, that if he had understood our *Language*, he might have seen himself in all his shapes, as a *vain Traveller*, an *empty Politician*, an *insolent Pedant*, and an *idle pretender to Learning*. But though he was not in a
condi-

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 condition of taking advice
 from our Stage, for the cor-
 recting of his own Vices,
 yet methinks he might
 thereby have rectify'd his
 judgment about ours: he
 might well have concluded,
 that the *English* temper, is
 not so universally heavy and
 dumpysh, when he beheld
 their Theatres, to be the
 gayest, and merriest in *Eu-
 rope*.

Concerning the *English*
Eloquence, he bravely de-
 clares, that all their Sermons
 in the Pulpit, and Pleadings

P. 168,
 169.

-librioo

at

at the Bar, consist of nothing P. 168,
but mean pedantry. The cen- 169.

sure is bold, especially from
a man that was so far from
understanding our lan-
guage, that he scarce knew,

Whether we move our lips, or P. 169,
no, when we speak. But to

shew him, that we can bet-
ter judge of Monsieur de Sor-
bler's Eloquence, I must tell
him, that the Muses and
Parnassus are almost whip't
out of our very Scholes :

That there are many hun-
dreds of Lawyers and Preach-
ers in England, who have

inbrought

S

long

long known how to conterm
 such delicacies of his stile.
 I will only give one instance
 for all. I believe, he could
 scarce have Brib'd any
 Scriveners Clerk, to describe
Hatfield as he has done, and
 P. 158. so to conclude, *That the*
Fishes in the Ponds did often
leap out of the water into the
air, to behold, and to delight
themselves with the beauties of
that place.

I will not attempt to de-
 fend the *Ornaments*, or the
Copiousnesse of our *Language*
 against one that is utterly
 ignorant

ignorant of it. But to shew
 how plentiful it is, I will
 only repeat an observation,
 which the *Earl of Clarendon*
 has made; That there is
 scarce any Language in the
 world, which can properly
 signify one English expressi-
 on, and that is *Good Nature*.
 Though *Monsieur de Sorbiers*
 will not allow the *Noble Au-
 thor* of this Note, to have any
 skill in *Grammar Learning*.
 Yet he must pardon me, if
 I still believe the observati-
 on to be true: At least, I
 assure you, Sir, that after all

259
 181.9
 101

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
my search, I cannot find
any one word in his Book,
which might incline me to
think otherwise.

But I will be content to
lay the whole authority of
his judgement in matters of
Wit, and Elegance, upon
what he sayes concerning
the *English Books*. He af-
firms, That they are only im-
pudent thefts out of others,
without citing their Authors,
and that they contain nothing,
but ill Rhapsodies of matter,
worse put together. And here,
Sir, I will for once do him a

your 2 courtesie.

courtesie. I will suppose him not to have taken this one character of us, from the *Soldier*, the *Zealander*, the *Puritans*, or the *Rabble* of the *Streets*: I will grant he might have taken an ill conceit of our writings, before he came over, from the usual judgement, which the Southern wits of the world, are wont to passe on the wit of all Northern Countries. 'Tis true indeed, I think the *French*, and the *Italians*, would scarce be so unneighbourly, as to assert, that all

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
our Authors are Theivish Pe-
dants. That is Monsieur de
Sorbier's own addition, but
yet they generally agree,
that there is scarce anything
of late written, that is worth
looking upon, but in their
own Languages. The Italians
did at first endeavour to
have it thought, that all
matters of Elegance, had
never yet pass'd over the
Alps: but being soon over-
whelm'd by Number, they
were content to admit the
French, and the Spaniards
into some share of the ho-

nour. But they all three still maintain this united opinion, that all wit is to be sought for no where but amongst themselves: It is their establish'd Rule, that good sence has alwayes kept neer the warm Sun, and scarce ever yet dar'd to come farther then the forty ninth degree Northward. This, Sir, is a pretty imagination of theirs; to think they have confin'd all Art to a Geographickall Circle, and to fancy that it is there so charm'd, as not to be able

to go out of the bounds which they have set it. It were certainly an easy and a pleasant work to confute this arrogant conception, by particular examples: It might quickly be shewn, that *England*, *Germany*, *Holland*, nay, even *Denmark*, and *Scotland*, have produc'd vety many men, who may justly come into competition with the best of these Southern wits, in the Advancement of the true Arts of life, in all the works of solid reason, nay, even in the

the lighter studies of ornament, and humanity. And, to speak particularly of *England*, there might be a whole *Volume* compos'd in comparing the Chastity, the newnesse, the vigour of many of our *English* Fancies, with the corrupt, and the swelling Metaphors, where with some of our Neighbors, who most admire themselves do still adorn their Books. But this, Sir, will require a larger discourse then I intend to bestow on *Monfieur de Sorbiere*. I am able to dispatch

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
patch him in fewer words.
For I wonder how, of all
men living, it could enter
into his thoughts, To con-
demn in grosse the *Englisb*
Writings, when the best
course that he has taken to
make himself consider'd as
a writer, was the *Translation*
of an *Englisb Author*.

But I beg your leave, Sir,
that I may briefly add, That
in the first Restoration of
Learning, the *Englisb* be-
gan to write well, as soon as
any, the *Italians* only except-
ed: and that if we may
ghesse

ghesse by what we see of the
Italians at this day, the *Eng-*
lish have continued to write
well, longer then they. Sir
Thomas Moore was contem-
porary with *Erasmus*, and
though he was a man of the
Law too, yet he yielded not
much to that incomparable
man, in the plenty of his in-
vention, or the Masculine
easynesse of his stile. And e-
ver since that time down to
this (if we may take a mea-
sure of the *English*, by what
Tully says of the *Romans*, in
their most flourishing con-
dition,

condition, that they had scarce above one excellent Poet or Orator in an age) we may make a very advantageous computation, for the honour of our Country. We have at this present, as many Masters of true and real Wit, as ever Greece produc'd in one age, whose names though I conceal, yet posterity shall declare. We have had many admirable *Geniuses* in Poetry, who have handled most of the antient and modern subjects of fancy, with wonderfull success.

We

We can name many faithfull
and diligent *Historians*, such
as never strove to frame a
Romance out of every story, that
they manag'd. And the
number of these will be
shortly increas'd by the la-
bours of a great man, from
whom we hope to receive
the *History* of our late wars,
a subject fit for the pen of a
Privy Counsellor to Kings, who
had himself a great share in
the conduct of these affairs
which he is to relate. Our
Mathematicians we may al-
most equall to those of all
Europe

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186,

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
Europe besides: Our *Physi-*
cians have long bin ap-
plauded by all the Learned
world; and certainly their
Renowned Colledge at London
deserv'd to have bin men-
tioned, as well as the *Fen-*
cers at the Red-Bull. Our
famous *Divines* have been
innumerable, as the *Dutch-*
men may witnesse, who, in
some of their *Theologicall*
Treatises, have bin as bold
with the *English Sermons*, as
with our *Fishing*, and their
robberies have bin so mani-
fest, that our Church ought
to

to have Reprisalls against them as well as our Merchants. We have had many *Philosophers*, of a strong, vigorous, and forcible judgment, of happy and laborious hands, of a sincere, a modest, a solid, an unaffected expression, such who have not thought it enough to set up for *Philosophers*, only to have got a large stock of fine words, and to have insinuated into the acquaintance of some of the great *Philosophers* of the age. And above all, we have

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 have one small Book, which
 we dare oppose to all the
 Treasures of the *Eastern*,
 and *Western* Languages, it is
 that which was written by
 our Late *King*, and *Martyr*:
 Whose Majestical stile, and
 Divine Conceptions, have
 not only moved all his
 Readers to admire his Elo-
 quence, but inclin'd some
 of the worst of his enemies,
 to relent their Cruelty to-
 wards him.

After all these signs of
 his excellent judgment, and
 generous mind, there still,

have

Sir,

Sir, remains that which he
has given of his good *Palat*,
For he has boldly determin'd
the controversie, that had long
depended in all the *Kitchings*
of *England*, and *France*,
which is the best way of eating,
Chines of *Beef*, and *Mutton*,
or *Bisques*, and *Potages*.
This, I confesse, was a mat-
ter fit to be decided by that
Historian, *Critick*, *Mathe-*
matician, *Orator*, and *Phy-*
sitian, Who had *Travell'd*
througout the world to ac-
quaint himselfe with all the
Learned men of all countries,
T and

*Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
and to push on all Sciences
to perfection. He has here in-
deed behav'd himselfe like
the true naturall, and expe-
rimental Philosopher, whose
businesse it is to take in all
manner of observations, that
can be got from the Senses.
You see, Sir, how fairly I
treat him, I allow the ve-
ry Criticisms of his appe-
tite to be a part of his Phi-
losophy; and I look upon
his affection to *Fricacies*
before *whole Joynts*, to pro-
ceed from his love to the
Doctrine of *Atoms*, before*

that

that of the two great standing dishes of *Matter* and *Form*. But yet I must tell him, that perhaps this Rigid condemning of the *English Cookery*, did not so well suit with his belov'd Title of *Sceptick*. According to the lawes of that profession, he should first have long debated whether there be any tast, or no; whether the steam of a pot be only a fancy, or a reall thing; whether the Kitchen fire has indeed the good qualities of roasting, and Boiling,

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 or whether it be only an
 appearance. This had bin
 a dispute more becomming
 a *Sceptick*; then thus to con-
 clude Dogmatically on all
 the *Intrigues* of *Haut gousts*;
 and to raise an endlesse spe-
 culative quarrel between
 those that had bin hitherto
 peaceful and practical *Seets*,
 the *Hashe's*, and the *Sur-
 loiners*.

You may now, Sir, per-
 haps expect, that I should
 make some Comparison be-
 tween the *French Dyet* and
 the *Englisb*. It were, I con-
 fess,

sefs, a pleasant, and a weighty argument. But I am resolv'd to passe it over: not that I think we have the worst of the cause; but for a particular reason of my own. It is that *Monsieur de Sorbiere* may still remain in his error; For as long as he is ignorant that there is any good *House Keeping* in *England*, we are like to have no more of his company; yet I cannot but say to the advantage of *Boil'd Beef and Roast*, that the *Eng-lish* have the same sincerity

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 in their *Dyet*, which they
 have in their *Manners*; and
 as they have less mixture
 in their *Dishes*, so they have
 less sophisticated composi-
 tions in their *hearts*, than
 the people of some other
Nations.

But now, Sir, I confesse
 he has quite tyrd my hand,
 and I almost lasham'd to
 behold this heap of his va-
 nities arise to such a Bulk,
 as he ought to be, that he
 has given me this occasion
 to collect them; I will there-
 fore in few words come to

an issue with him : I will
satisfie him in the request
which he makes to this
Reader. I am content to
conclude from these his three
moneths travells, what kind
of Observations he has made
in the world these thirty years.
This, Sir, is his own desire,
and I obey him. But then
I know not how he will be
able to avoid the imputa-
tion of those Crimes with
which he has so often flau-
ndered the *English*, of be-
ing a *Doe-little*, an *Idle*,
a *Lazy*, and a *Useless Per-*
son.

son. The description of his *Voyage into Holland* is not yet come to my hands : but if it be of the same thread with this, he had bin much better imploy'd, if he had only imitated the *Roman Emperours* journey thither, and gone to gather *Cockle-shells* on that shore. If he has any friends amongst all the learned men of Europe, that were once his familiars, they would do well to advise him what weight his mind will bear: he is himself in the right, when he acknowledges

knowledges, that *these mat-*
ters of state, Characters of Ep. De.
Nations, descriptions of Go-
vernments, Churches, and
Courts, are far above the
weakness of his Spirit. But yet
the Mans abilities are not
wholy to be discourag'd ;
he may still prove a tole-
rable good flatterer of his
Patrons : he may bring in
his *Vostre Tres Humble,* arti-
ficially enough in the end
of an empty Letter of com-
plements : he may serve to
commend Philosophers
when they are dead : or
(to

(to conclude with his own dear Epithete) he may make a sufficient *Trumpeter* in the Common-wealth of Learning. And in truth he has behav'd himself, in this *account of his Voyage*, like a true *Trumpeter*; for *Trumpeters*, when they are sent in- to foreign armies or countries, are alwayes blinded on purpose that they might not be able to give any certain intelligence, of the places through which they pass'd.

And now, Sir, having dis-
miss'd

mifs'd the *Historiographer*
Royal, that I may speedily
put an end to your trouble,
I will only in few words ap-
ply my speech to your self.
You may perhaps remem-
ber, that we have sometimes
debated together, what place
and time of all the past, or
present, we would have
chosen to live in, if our fates
had bin at our own disposal;
and in that discourse, in-
stead of *desiring to have bin*
born in China, we both a-
greed, that *Rome*, in the *Reign*
of *Augustus*, was to be pre-
ferr'd

ferr'd before all others. The prerogatives of that time were very many : That City was then become the establish'd seat of the *Empire* of the world : that *Emperour* had the good fortune to succeed a long civil war : the minds of all men were easily compos'd into obedience by the remembrance of their past misfortunes : the arts of Wit, Reason, and delight were in their highest perfection : the Court was the place of resort, for all the Lovers of generous

rous knowledge : and such
was the freedom of their
manners, that *Virgil*, *Horace*,
and *Varius* were admitted
into the privacies ; and
friendship, of *Agrippa*, *Me-*
cenas, and *Augustus*. ed Be-
yond this we could fancy
nothing pleasanter to a
Philosophical mind ; which
was resolv'd to live accord-
ing to the convenience, and
Rules of Nature , see-
ing it might there have in-
joy'd at once all the varie-
ties of an active life, and
all the quiet, and peace, of a
Retir'd. This

This, Sir, was then our opinion : But it was before the *Kings Return*. For since that blessed time, the condition of our owne Countrey appears to me to be such, that we need not search into antient *Histo-ry* for a reall Idea of happiness. 'Tis true that *England* is not the seat of the Empire of the world : But it may be of that which confines the world it self, the Ocean : To this Dominion our Nation is invited, by the Scituation of our
shores,

shores, the inclination of our people, and the Genius of a vigorous and skilfull Prince. The time wherein we live is upon the recovery of an Universal peace; a peace establish'd on the two surest foundations of Fear, and Love: a peace that was accomplish'd without proscriptions, and even without the ruine of those that resisted it: a peace that was produc'd by peaceful Arts, though it was by the conduct of an Army. The footsteps of the

the late dreadfull war are not only vanish'd from our eies, but now almost from our thoughts. If any thing of it still remains, it is only the good effect which it had on our country, the industry that was excited by it, and the wisdom which such wofull experience has taught us. The Government which we enjoy, is justly compos'd of a sufficient liberty, and restraint. And though it may be suspected in a querulous and discontented age,

Age, a little to incline the people to disobedience; yet in a calme, and a secure time (such as this at present) it serves admirably well to breed a generous, an honourable, and invincible spirit. The temper of the *English* is free, Modest, Sincere, Kind, hard to be provok'd: if they are not so talkative as others, yet they are more careful of what they speak: if they are thought, by some of their neighbours,

from

V

to

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
to be a little defective in
the gentleness, and the
pliableness of their humour;
yet that want is abundant-
ly supplied, by their
firme and their Masculine
virtues: and perhaps the
same observation may be
found true in men, which
is in Mettals, that those
of the strongest, and the
Noblest substance are
hardest to be polish'd.
The Arts that now pre-
vail amongst us, are not
only all the usefull Sci-
ences of Antiquity, but
most

most especially all the late discoveries of this Age in the real knowledge of mankind, and nature. For the improvement of this kind of light, the *English* disposition is of all others the fittest. And an universal zeal towards the advancement of such designs, has not only overspread our *Court* and *Universities*; but the Shops of our *Mechanicks*, the fields of our *Gentlemen*, the Cottages of our *Farmers*, and the Ships of

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
our Merchants. To all
this, Sir, may be added
the Profession of such a
Religion, and the Disci-
pline of such a *Church*,
which an impartial Phi-
losopher would chuse:
which by falling with the
Throne, and by rising
with it again, has given
evident signe, how con-
sistent it is with the Laws
of humane society, and
how peerly its interest is
united with the prosperity
of our Country.

'Tis true indeed that
after

after all these advantages,
there may be some room
still left for future amend-
ments, in the union of
our minds, the smooth-
ness of our manners, and
the Beauty of our Build-
ings. This last was the
peculiar honour of Au-
gustus, who is said to have
found Rome of Brick, and
to have left it of Marble.
In this kind too we every
day behold a wonderful
progress, by the power-
full influence of a Roy-
al Example: so that I,

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
may in generall affirm,
that never any Nation
in the world has pro-
ceeded by swifter de-
grees, to excell in Con-
venience and Magni-
ficence. But whatever
is to be added in this,
or any other such way,
we can never receive
it from the petulant cor-
rections of such vain Ob-
servers, as this whom
I have here consider'd.
No, Sir, we are to ex-
pect it from the many
Noble and practicall Eng-
lish

lish Wits of this Age:
and chiefly from your
self. For you must give
me leave, Sir, to pre-
face, that to you your
Country is to owe very
much of its Ornament,
as well as experimental
knowledge, its reputation
and indeed all the li-
ving, and Beneficial Arts,
the enlargement of their
Bounds. This, Sir, I
know will offend your
modesty; but he is an
ill English-man, who would
not have said as much

as this, when your name was mentioned: which if I had omitted, I had bin almost as injurious to our Nation, as this very *Traveller* whom I censure: for as he was unjust in aggravating the faults, so I my selfe had been, in concealing one of the principall glories of *England*.

I beg of you now, Sir, only to permit me to conclude with some Apology for my self. You may, perhaps, wonder all
this

this while to see me undertake such an argument, and to prosecute it in a manner, which may appear perhaps a little too sharp for your eye, or my pen. You know, Sir, that I am enemy to all manner of controversies, that I hate contention, though in matters of the greatest concernment, and that I had much rather defend, then accuse: To this I can therefore only reply, for my excuse, that this *Letter* may not so properly
be

Observations on Mr. Sorbier's
 be call'd an *Accusation*, as a
Defence: For though I have
 confuted the sawciness of
 one particular *Man*, yet I
 have pleaded for a *Great*, a
Valiant, and a *vertuous*
 people. Sir, I am.

London,
 August 1.
 1664.

Your most Humble and

Affectionate Servant.

THO. SPRAT.

Gate all defence of
English with same this
he that composed this
Book of England was
a France must fall
as short of England, as
Ancient spras doth,
Dull Sorbier's surpas

1664